



# HOURGLASS

## COMMENT

Blythe Pepino on why the Birth Strike movement is not about population



Page 7

## When Writers Rebel

MARGARET ATWOOD



Page 6 >>

# INDUSTRIES ADAPT TO ADDRESS THE CLIMATE AND ECOLOGICAL CRISIS

by SYLVIA KLIMAKI

For decades, the fashion industry has been built on a 'take-make-dispose' model. According to The Waste and Resources Action Programme (WRAP), a charity that works with businesses, communities and the UK government to improve resource efficiency, around 300,000 tonnes of clothing ends up in household bins every year, with around 20% of this going to landfill and 80% being incinerated.

A report published by Oxfam in September 2019 found that 53 per cent of British adults are unaware of how environmentally destructive the fast fashion industry is. Consumption of new clothing is estimated to be higher in the UK than in any other European country, at around 26.7kg per capita per year. According to the Ellen MacArthur Foundation, a charity and global thought leader on circular economy, "if the fashion industry continues on its current path, by 2050 it could use more than 26% of the carbon budget associated with a 2 degree centigrade global warming limit".

Moving away from this current linear model, which causes considerable waste of textiles, is therefore crucial, and some pioneers are leading the way. Italian company Econyl uses synthetic waste such as industrial plastic, waste fabric and fishing nets from oceans to create their products, by recycling and regenerating them into a nylon yarn that is exactly the same quality as virgin nylon. Surf champion Kelly Slater's label Outerknown and designer Stella McCartney



Photo | Ben Darlington

are among the fashion brands using Econyl.

Designers in the fashion industry are also responding to the climate and ecological crisis in this way. One of the world's biggest sportswear brands has developed a recyclable running shoe that is made from one single material and contains no glue. When the shoes are disposed of, the material is cleaned and melted down to be used in a new pair of shoes.

Other companies are attempting to move

to a different type of economy altogether. In China, Y:closet, a fashion sharing platform with over 15 million users, is adopting a 'product-as-a-service' business model that allows people to rent clothes, including luxury brands. Consumers can select their desired clothes online, which are then shipped to them, worn and then returned and washed by Y:closet. According to the Ellen MacArthur foundation, this rental business model also encourages the production of higher quality products that are more durable and therefore more

sustainable.

Positive steps towards a more eco-friendly consumption model are also taking place in the consumer goods sector. Since April 2018 there has been meaningful progress towards eliminating single-use packaging, with major supermarkets leading the charge, according to a recent study by the UK Plastics Pact, a collaborative initiative that helps businesses tackle the scourge of plastic waste. Several major supermarket chains in the UK have

»» CONTINUED FROM FRONT PAGE

plastic cutlery and replaced them with wooden alternatives, while others have committed to offering loose fruit and vegetables over packaged ones.

Loop, a US-based company, is looking to help consumers move away from single-use plastic whilst buying their favourite consumer brands - anything from Tide detergent to Colgate toothpaste and Tropicana juice.



The products are packaged in a waste-free way and put in a Loop tote (a plastic- and cardboard-free box). The products are then delivered through a zero-waste system that eliminates disposable, single-use shipping materials, avoiding any cardboard boxes, bubble-wrap or ice packs. Once consumers have enjoyed their products, they place them back into the Loop tote and schedule a free pick-up. In 2020 Loop's services will roll out in the UK where, according to HMRC, over 2 million tonnes of new plastic packaging is being produced each



Photo | Vladimir Morozov

year.

Although pioneers in these industries exist, so do barriers to creating sustainable models of production. The "linear economy model is way cheaper," says Henry le Fleming, an Environmental Performance Specialist who has been following the industry for over 20 years. "The regulatory environment is not supporting recycling and reusing and this underpins a lot of the barriers,"

he adds. "We need a progressive regulatory mechanism that will help businesses and people move towards a more sustainable model." ■



# LETTER FROM THE EDITORS

Dear Readers,

## We're back in the '20s but the 'roaring' aspect of the decade isn't so great;

literal fires have been raging across Australia, killing over half a billion animals, while flooding in Jakarta in Indonesia has left tens of thousands of people homeless.

Meanwhile, world leaders deny the new climate reality, and fail to act to bring down emissions and global temperatures. It doesn't look like 2020 will be the year of clear-sightedness that the world so desperately needs.

We have to stop and ask ourselves - who made the world this way?

Humans are a strange species: we have the ability of foresight, but spend so much of our time teaching ourselves not to use it. Refugee children washed up on a beach, look away. Baby kangaroos frozen in time, made of ash, burned to cinders, look away. People living in camps, in poverty...

We look away because we feel helpless, in a world that wants us to believe that we are helpless.

But looking away won't change a thing.

It takes courage to face the world we have built. It's heartbreaking to watch the world burning, drowning, dying, but when you dare to face it with your eyes wide

open, although it hurts, it awakens something too. Compassion. Resolve to do better. The call to protect. This is the fire that the world needs right now.

The world needs more defenders, guardians who protect life on this planet, to arise. We need you to use your voice. We need your fire.

I see you feeling helpless, feeling weak, but you are not. We adapted, we thrived. We crawled out of the oceans to grow, to birth, to tend land, to nurture and protect, to marvel at the beauty of the universe. It's in your genes, it's in your veins. It's in your DNA to adapt and survive.

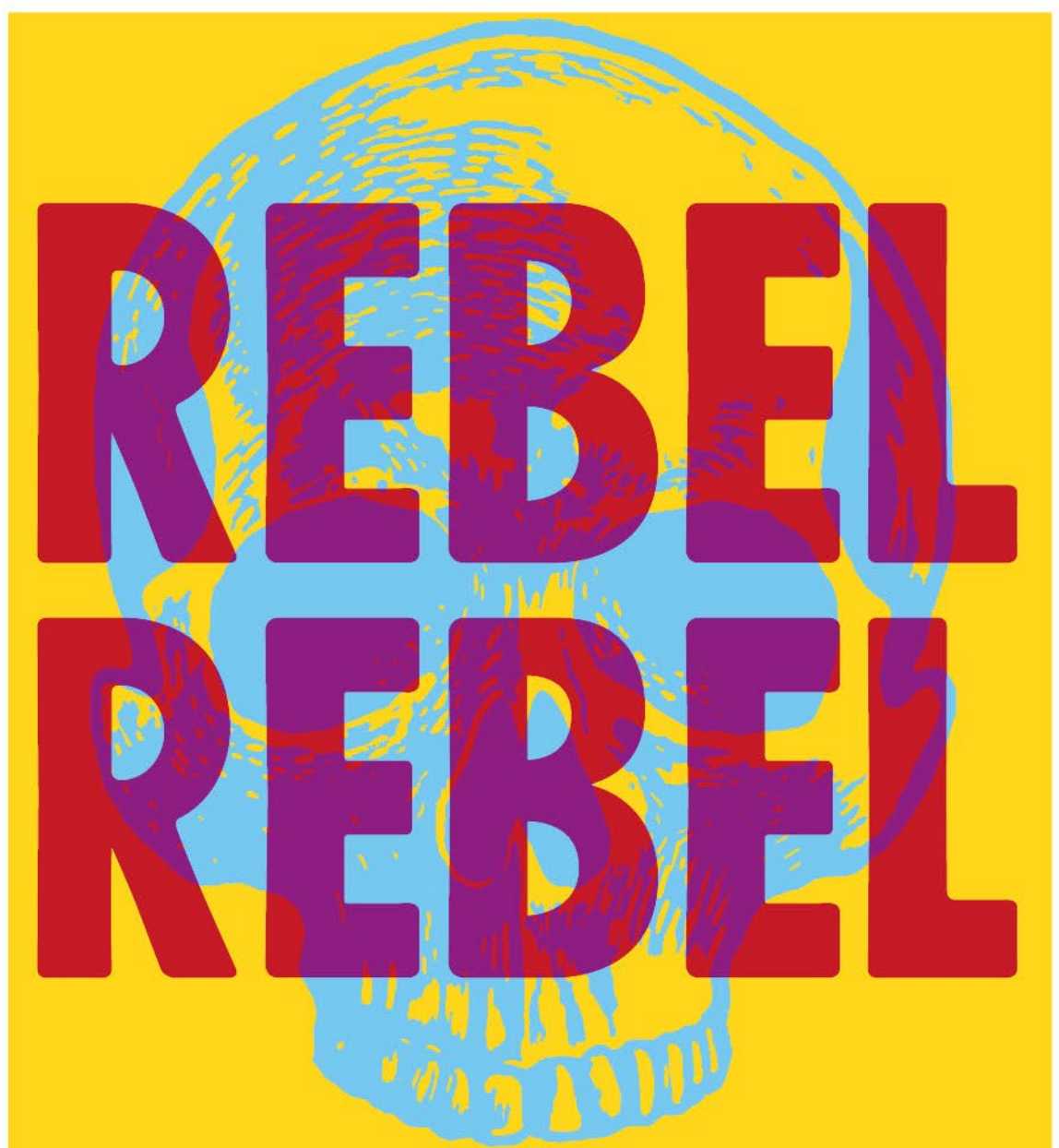
If you're reading this, you have a part to play. We may be alive right now to see the end of times. The fires raging around the world now are only the beginning of the climate chaos that is to come. As world leaders show cowardice, ordinary people the world over show the courage we need to adapt to this new climate reality.

There is fire that burns and destroys, and there is fire that cleanses and heals.

Looking away is no longer an option. We are nature defending itself.

Love and Rebellion ■

*The Editorial Team*  
of The Hourglass



## HOURGLASS MEET THE TEAM



**ZION LIGHTS**  
Lead Editor



**CHRIS LEDWARD**  
Design Editor



**ANGUS BARR**  
Distribution



**PHILIP KINGSLAN JOHN**  
Comix Rebel

The Hourglass Newspaper  
The Green House, 244-254 Cambridge Heath Road, E2 9DA, United Kingdom

Email: [hourglass@rebellion.earth](mailto:hourglass@rebellion.earth)

Website: [hourglass.news](http://hourglass.news)

Send writing submissions to: [submissionsxrnewspaper@protonmail.com](mailto:submissionsxrnewspaper@protonmail.com)

Send comic submissions to: [comixrebel@rebellion.earth](mailto:comixrebel@rebellion.earth)

For distribution enquiries contact: [distributionxrnewspaper@gmail.com](mailto:distributionxrnewspaper@gmail.com)

The Hourglass has made every effort to report the truth. We take great care to ensure that statements of fact are correct, but mistakes do sometimes happen. If you spot anything, please email [hourglass@rebellion.earth](mailto:hourglass@rebellion.earth) with the article title and page number.

**EDITORIAL**  
Zion Lights  
Jon Berwick  
Rhys Handley

**DESIGN**  
Chris Ledward

**COMIX REBEL**  
Philip Kingslan John

**LEAD PHOTOGRAPHY**  
Ben Darlington

**DISTRIBUTION**  
Angus Barr

**CONTRIBUTORS**

Adam Reynolds, Adrian Harris, Alice Brunton, Anca Vaida, Blythe Pepino, Brett Redmayne-Tiley, Cecilia Stassi, Chris Gower, Gareth Huw Davies, Holly Gillibrand, Imogen Allen, Jessica Cowell, Jessica Townsend, Laura Baggaley, Melanie Edwards, Miles Richardson, Myke Hall, Nicole Stanfield, Paul Turner, Raven, Rosanna Preston, Siobhan Spooner, Stephanie Laslett, Sylvia Klimaki, Thea Chamberlain, Tori Dee

**WITH SPECIAL THANKS TO**  
Harry North, Margaret Atwood, Nick Brennan, Polyp, Schnumm, Stevil & Al, Wallis Eates, everyone who sent in letters and emails (yes, even the trolls!), the XR Art team, and all the rebel distributors



# OVER HALF OF UK COUNCILS HAVE DECLARED A CLIMATE EMERGENCY



Photo | Ben Darlington

by **RHYS HANDLEY**

According to the latest figures from the Climate Emergency Network, 265 district, county, unitary and metropolitan councils in the UK have declared a climate emergency, out of a total of 408.

With most of the authorities declaring across eight months in 2019, the UK represents one of the fastest-growing environmental movements in recent history. When smaller councils such as parish councils are included, 400 authorities were found to have declared, covering more than 80% of the UK population in some form.

Councils have committed to taking urgent action to reduce their carbon emissions at a local level, with a number committing to reductions by 2030 - 20 years ahead of the central government's own timeline.

Climate Emergency Network chair Counsellor Doina Cornell said: "We need to act fast - we only have a few years to get practical measures in place in every part of this country to radically bring down our carbon emissions.

"Local councils have the

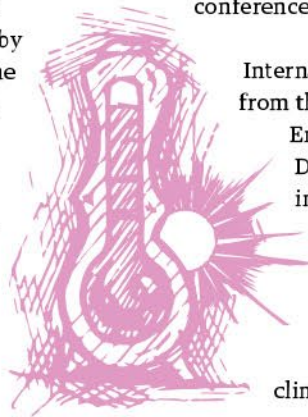
resources and expertise to do the heavy lifting that's needed, in partnership with local communities.



We know what needs to be done, so now we just must get on with it."

As leader of Stroud Council in Gloucestershire, Cllr Cornell heads the second-ever local authority in the UK to declare a climate emergency.

The Welsh Parliament was the first parliament to declare on 29 April last year, although the Scottish government was also an early joiner with First Minister Nicola Sturgeon declaring a climate emergency on behalf of her government at the SNP conference one day earlier.



International figures from the group Climate Emergency Declaration found in December that 1,261 jurisdictions across 25 countries have declared a climate emergency, covering around 798 million citizens around the world. ■

# COP25 FAILS TO REACH CONSENSUS ON CLIMATE ACTION

by **RHYS HANDLEY**

COP25, the UN's annual climate conference, failed to reach consensus on a number of key issues that must be resolved before the Paris Agreement can be put into action.

Almost 27,000 delegates deliberated over the 'rule book' for the Paris Agreement over two weeks of negotiations at the summit in Madrid in early December.

Despite the conference overrunning by almost two days, ending on 15 December rather than the scheduled stop of 13 December, a number of crucial topics were still not agreed upon and must be



Photo | Ben Darlington

reopened when delegates meet for COP26 in Glasgow this November.

One key failure was the conference's inability to reach an agreement on Article 6 of the rule book, which would set in place rules for carbon markets and other forms of international

cooperation.

A general call for higher environmental ambitions supported by the EU and small island countries also saw push-back from countries including the US, Brazil, India and China. ■

## IN OTHER NEWS



Photo | Ben Darlington

■ The Boris Johnson-led Conservative Party took a resounding win in December's general election, increasing its majority to 365 seat in the House of Commons.

■ Across the UK, levels of child criminal exploitation are estimated to be "almost back to Victorian times" according to Shaun Sawyer, the national police lead for modern slavery and human trafficking. He welcomed Johnson's pledge for more police officers but called for more detailed policy around child protection.

■ Young Scots are embracing Scotland's traditional language, as almost twice the number of current native Scottish Gaelic

speakers have signed up to learn the language on Duolingo. This trend develops as First Minister Nicola Sturgeon responds to the election results with a revived push for a referendum on independence.

■ Finally, Veganuary is in full swing and it didn't take long for the bigger brands to get in on the action. Greggs has now launched a meatless steak bake to go alongside its massively popular vegan sausage roll. Meanwhile, KFC has launched its own vegan chicken burger. Both new products make use of Quorn as a meat replacement.

Answers on Page 4

## WHO SAID IT?

**"We don't have a lot of time. We have to try to turn this around. If we don't, the fabric of the global environment will begin to unravel and there will be nothing we can do to change it."**

**"The biggest obstacle is the climate change delayers. On the face of it, these individuals may sound more reasonable - but their agenda is equally as threatening and pernicious as the one peddled by the deniers."**



Photo | Ben Darlington

# STUDENT ACTIVISTS REFOREST BATH UNIVERSITY CAMPUS OVERNIGHT

by **STEPHANIE LASLETT**

On the eve of National Tree Day, 28th November, 40 student activists planted 120 trees around Bath University Campus. The following day, National Tree Day, most of them were uprooted by university staff.

The Extinction Rebellion student activist group is asking that the University takes the climate and ecological crisis seriously, and that it accepts responsibility for its contributions by taking bold steps to reach carbon neutrality by 2030.

One of the activists said, "The university has a responsibility to teach the truth, and to communicate the severity of the climate crisis to all students and staff, rather than just having the occasional sustainability module as a token afterthought."

The students entered the university grounds at night, planting trees after midnight in heavy rain. Many trees were planted in central areas of the universities, including the middle of the iconic amphitheatre by the lake, where a pink extinction symbol was spray painted, and trees planted along its lines. Security were unaware of the extent of the action during the night, but did notice some of the tree locations the next day and

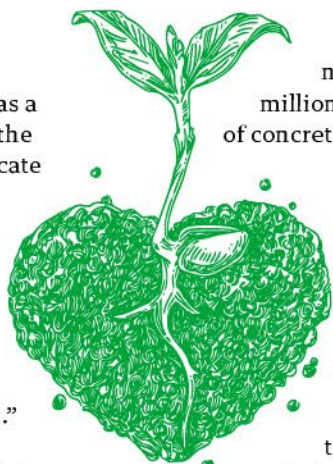
proceeded to uproot the oak and hawthorn saplings. The majority of the trees, in safer locations, remain.

A student representative said, "Our council, Bath and North East Somerset, has declared a climate emergency, alongside the majority of jurisdictions in the UK, and over 12,000 worldwide, in 28 countries. It is now time for our institutions to step up to this challenge, and take the necessary action to reach carbon neutrality by 2030."

One area targeted was next to a new multi-million pound building, made of concrete and steel.

The University of Bath spends an average of £1 million on buildings every week, but when approached by students weeks before the action, they refused to allow a single tree to be planted. The university continues to indirectly fund fossil fuels through its investments and banking with Barclays Bank. It also has relationships with fossil fuel giants BP and Shell.

As a result of similar student-led actions, The Universities of Bristol, Exeter, Lincoln and Newcastle have declared a climate emergency and are planning for net zero by 2030. ■



## WHO SAID IT? ANSWERS | 1 Jane Fonda 2 Sadiq Khan

# READ HOURGLASS BACK ISSUES

Read digital back issues of The Hourglass at

**HOURGLASS.NEWS**



**DONATE**

to support climate reporting at [rebellion.earth/donate](https://rebellion.earth/donate)



# Denmark Makes Climate Action Law



Photo | Ben Darlington

by **BRETT REDMAYNE-TITLEY**

Friday 6 December 2019 saw an important victory in the battle to address the climate and ecological crisis. Denmark's new Climate Act will entirely revamp Denmark's climate policy by law, and thrust it onto the world's centre stage by showcasing the only effective political solution: changing the system itself.

Eight out of the ten parties in the Danish Parliament agreed on

the new national Climate Act that mandates binding targets to reduce greenhouse gas emissions by 70 per cent (compared to the 1990 level). The target date for tangible reductions is 2030.

In a world-first, Danish law requires consideration of methane gas, consumption, and imported emissions along with CO2. Denmark has also eliminated

carbon credits, and a new expert body of climate scientists will be placed with the newly formed Climate Council. They and the Climate Minister must annually submit to a parliamentary progress review.

The first of two five year plans of action are now being developed for approval. A new Committee for the Green Transformation

will also ensure that climate considerations are taken into account in every major political decision, and will include thirteen climate partnerships with Denmark's leading private sector organizations. The aim of this historic legislation is a path to

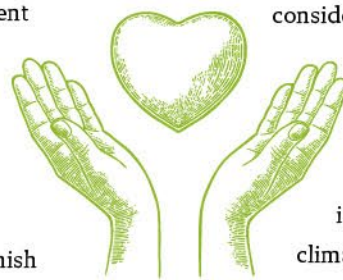


Photo | Joe Twigg

sustainable solutions of the future.

can inspire other countries to follow suit." ■

Danish law requires it to take a leadership role in international climate engagement. Every year it will present to the world its Climate Action Programmes that showcase concrete political initiatives to decarbonize every Danish civic sector.

Minister for Climate, Dan Jørgensen, said "We hope Denmark

*About the Author: Brett Redmayne-Titley has published over 180 in-depth articles over the past ten years for news agencies worldwide. He can be reached at: live-on-scene@gmx.com. Prior articles can be viewed at his archive: www.watchingromeburn.uk*

# DUTCH COURT RULES PEOPLE MUST BE PROTECTED FROM CLIMATE CHANGE

by **RHYS HANDLEY**

People have a fundamental right to be protected from climate change, according to a ruling by the Dutch Supreme Court.

Upholding previous rulings made in 2015, the court announced at the end of December that the government in the Netherlands must hold to a promise to cut emissions by at least 25% from 1990 levels, by the end of 2020.

The Dutch government had appealed against the initial rulings, which were brought to the courts in 2013 by environmental organisation Urgenda on behalf of 900 Dutch citizens in a bid to see national emissions lowered by between 25% and 40%.

Urgenda's efforts represent the first attempt in the world to use human rights law to force a government to protect its citizens from the potential fallout of the

climate and ecological crisis.

A spokesperson for Urgenda described the ruling as "a groundbreaking decision that confirms that individual governments must do their fair share to reduce greenhouse gas emissions". Following the ruling, the organisation declared on Twitter that "history is written".

The ruling, by Judge Streefkerk, incorporated Articles 2 and 8 of the European Convention for the Protection of Human Rights (ECHR), which cover respectively the right to life and the right to respect for private and family life.

In its appeal against previous rulings, the Dutch government had argued that a reduction in the country's emissions would be too small to make a difference on a national scale. Projections from the Netherlands' Environmental Assessment Agency indicate that the country will fall short of the required target, with 2020

emissions set to be 23% lower than in 1990.

Damian Rau, a plaintiff in the case alongside Urgenda, said that the case "will set the action we so urgently need into motion and

will force governments into taking their responsibility. The judgment is an example to the world that no one is powerless and everybody can make a difference."

Urgenda say that the ruling

has now inspired similar cases in Belgium, Canada, Colombia, Ireland, Germany, France, New Zealand, Norway, the U.K., Switzerland and the European Union. ■



Photo | Annabelle Chih

# WHEN WRITERS REBEL

## Jessica Townsend meets Booker Prize winner Margaret Atwood



politicians to move the needle.”

In particular Atwood warns those politicians against dismissing the youth strikes: “They may be 16 now, but in a couple of years, they’re going to be voting and unless you get to it, they’re certainly not going to vote for you.”

For Atwood it’s imperative that ecological movements offer practical incentives: “What you have to do is add a positive element. Because if people think there’s no hope, they do nothing... So you need some practical minds. You know, if everybody starts working on this, here’s where the jobs are going to be found.”

Atwood’s emphasis on mutual benefits comes from her long history with conservation: “If you go to an area where there are residents and rare birds, unless you make it worthwhile for the people who actually live there to save that bird, they will not do it.”

by **JESSICA TOWNSEND**

They say don’t meet your heroes. Perhaps this is because you can’t have a relationship with someone on a pedestal: it’s much easier to worship from afar. When I go to meet Margaret Atwood at the Covent Garden Hotel in London, I have forgotten this wisdom and my head is full of fantasies. I am here to see her to ask for support for the Writers Rebel project, which encourages published writers to focus on the climate crisis.

Margaret Atwood is not only one of the most renowned novelists on the planet, she has also been defending its ecosystems for more than fifty years, most of them with her late husband, the renowned conservationist Graeme Gibson, at her side.

I first read her iconic dystopian novel, *The Handmaid’s Tale*, in the seventies: a long time before the recent Netflix series that captured the imagination of a whole new generation. I am not alone in my Margaret worship. When Kasuo Ishiguro accepted the Nobel Prize in 2017, he went so far as to apologise to Atwood that it hadn’t been awarded to

her.

Now eighty, she is well-groomed with curly hair and sharp nose and cool, grey

**“What is going to make the difference is mass movements like Extinction Rebellion and the youth strikes”**

eyes. Her voice is low, astute and warm.

My first question to Atwood is regarding the role of writers in the climate equation. “You can’t dictate to artists what they should do,” she tells me, “They’ll figure it out. And they’re already figuring it out. So my own feeling is just, you know, give the artists carte blanche but don’t tell them what to do.”

Atwood is, however, still adamant that we urgently need

to mobilise from the top to address the climate and biodiversity crisis: “There is a time problem. Yes, change is happening at the level of cities. It’s happening at the level of regions. It’s not happening at the level of nations. And it’s not happening at the international level either. So we need leadership that will state clearly that their goal is to prevent the extinction of the human race.”

I had assumed that since birds have been around from before the time of dinosaurs, that they might survive but she puts me right: “Birds are going to be in trouble. Birds are already in a lot of trouble.”

As a new activist without a long history of engagement and years of background reading, I feel this lack when talking to veterans like Atwood. But Atwood herself is just relieved that thanks to organisations like Extinction Rebellion, the issue is at last being given prominence and airtime.

In fact she wore the extinction symbol to the Booker ceremony in London last year - a political fashion statement that garnered a lot of attention for the movement when she shared the prize with Bernadine Evaristo.

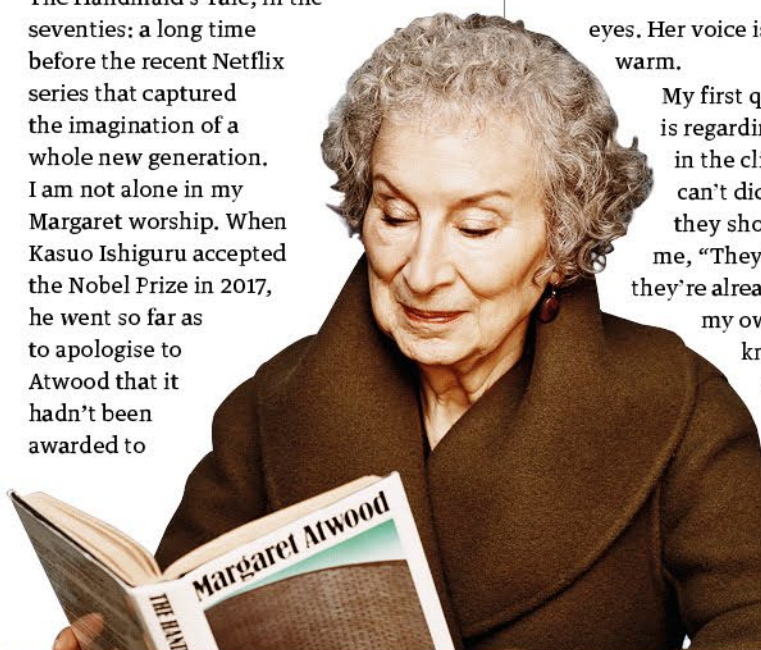
She confirms her enthusiasm to me in person: “What is going to make the difference is mass movements like Extinction Rebellion and the youth strikes.”

“I mean, it’s nice to be interviewed and all of those things, but do I think it’s going to make a blind bit of difference? I know a few people will listen to it, but out of the fullness of humanity, not very many really. However, a mass movement, such as is now afoot, can make a difference because it gets

Finally when I mention that for me the person who has so far written the most beautiful words for climate activism is Greta Thunberg, we find a sense of perfect accord. Atwood waxes lyrical: “She’s wonderful, and she’s impervious to people slagging her off. For me she is the Joan of Arc of the environment. I think she needs a big white horse.”

We end with a laugh, and for me a sense of relief. So my heroine’s heroine is someone who I also revere. Maybe I do have a little in common with the marvelous Margaret Atwood. ■

*Interview transcribed by Lucy Evans  
Writers Rebel are on Twitter @xrrebel*



# Comment is Priceless



MYKE HALL

## ECO-FASCISM: THE THREAT IS REAL

According to the Oxford English Dictionary, eco-fascism is “Radical environmentalism of a type perceived as excessive, intolerant, or authoritarian”.

When a government uses a threat to the environment to justify autocratic rule and the removal of rights, we call it eco-fascism. Attaining net zero greenhouse gas emissions by 2025 would be easy if we imposed authoritarian rule. The oil and gas industry could be shut down overnight without regard for massive job losses, transport infrastructure collapse, and a host of other potential outcomes.

However, disengaging from civil rights, workers’ rights, borders and immigration,

Indigenous sovereignty, and feminism, creates the right conditions for eco-fascism to thrive. Saving the world doesn’t just mean protecting us from extreme weather, food and water shortages. What kind of world are we saving if our rights and freedoms are taken away?

One of the rationales for Extinction Rebellion’s demand for a Citizens’ Assembly is an attempt to prevent an eco-fascist future. Decision-making power should be given to ordinary citizens rather than corruptible politicians.

Ecological breakdown will affect everyone, but the people affected the most are those who are already at a disadvantage. Those living in parts of the world that suffer due to British colonialism, aggressive American foreign policy or Western capitalism, refugees, and those living in poverty. In fact, almost all political issues intersect with climate change; it makes everything worse. Their struggles are part of our fight. ■

## BABIES DON’T PRODUCE EMISSIONS, OUR SYSTEMS DO



BLYTHE PEPINO

We live in a strange world where nuanced discussion of important topics is typically sacrificed in favour of reductionist bickering, with extremist leaders and the media at large pitting the most extreme views against each other to boost ratings.

The BirthStrike message, calling for collective action and a just, systemic-level response to our environmental and social crises, is being white-washed by incorrect and divisive reporting that associates our movement with ‘over-population’ and its historical connection to ideas like eugenics and genocide. This irresponsible and dangerous reporting encourages judgemental ‘footprint’ comparisons and shrouds the real issues such as consumption, inequality and social justice. If we are to succeed in avoiding the climate catastrophe we must avoid this divide and rule approach and unite on the street - with humility and willingness to help each other change deeply.

BirthStrike is not campaigning about population or for population

reduction. Our wealth is linked to our consumption and our power, and our planet consists of a rich 10% creating all the issues with the power to fix them, vs a poor 90% contributing little to the problems yet receiving the majority of the consequences.

**‘If we are to succeed in avoiding the climate catastrophe we must avoid this divide and rule approach and unite on the street’**

Like the ecological crisis as a whole this conversation about babies is big and messy - it challenges and triggers sexism, racism and xenophobia; and people come from all kinds of different angles, experiences and levels of understanding.

Finally, our global population is likely to be decimated by the consequences of our inaction on the crisis in the next century anyway. Please pause to let this sink in. ■

To read this essay in full visit: <https://tinyurl.com/rcq14g4> Contact: [BirthStrike@gmail.com](mailto:BirthStrike@gmail.com)



JESSICA COWELL

## WE WON’T BE SILENCED

but now I’m beyond convinced. A first past the post system meant that approximately 45% of the public vote didn’t count. How can those views be discounted, who does this system protect and which members of



our community did it silence?

Thoughts of a climate apartheid run through my mind. I am terrified of how ordinary people are going to be demonised

and left to bear the brunt of climate and ecological collapse despite contributing the least to it.

Later my friends and I come to the same conclusion, that our present situation, rife with inadequate climate action and rampant inequality, has left us with no other option than to continue to organise. We

are in it for the long haul, we know we are going to know each other for a long time now and that morally we have no other option than to fight in our communities and to amplify the voices of other communities for climate justice.

Extinction Rebellion was my first foray into activism. I joined because I was sick of hiding behind a computer screen, signing

**‘A first past the post system meant that approximately 45% of the public vote didn’t count’**

petitions, retweeting climate stories and seeing nothing happen. I wanted to be part of a community, standing, sitting, locking on - however scary - with other people because to continue doing what I had been doing, frozen with fear and depression, was even scarier.

After attending two meetings I found myself in the middle of the National Museum of Scotland in Edinburgh on a freezing February night surrounded by new friends trying to stop the Scottish Oil Club Dinner. It’s the best action I’ve taken part in and the one that I measure every other action against. It was an action that included nearly everyone I was with on election night, all of whom are active in their communities and all of whom are

part of a smaller personal community I now call my friends. I believe now, more than ever, is the time to hold friends close, to restore - however difficult - trust in other people to do the right thing, and to empower people to take part in activism because we are powerful, and we won’t be silenced. ■

# YOUTH VOICE



**THEA CHAMBERLAIN** Age 16

## ART IN A TIME OF CRISIS

I study Art & Design at a college in Totnes, Devon, where I have been very lucky to meet some truly inspiring teachers who have developed my understanding that art gives me power; a voice I wouldn't otherwise have.

I was inspired by several collage artists, particularly Ines Koudis, to produce a large-scale mixed

media response, focusing on the iconic and artful Red Rebels. I chose them because they represent an arresting, visual symbol for the climate and ecological crisis, whilst recognising the power that art and

*"The Red Rebels are celebrated as the flowers on the headdress"*

creativity has within climate action.

When composing my work, I combined media from fashion magazines, newspapers and issues of The Hourglass to produce a collage that had a strong 'pop art' feel to evoke a strong emotional response. I collected hundreds of poignant words and headlines aimed to highlight the frustration we feel and the urgency of the situation. The headdress suggests a more ethnically diverse image.

The Red Rebels are celebrated as the flowers on the headdress, fashion images depicting their contribution to global warming. I love the cursive words 'I heal' of the eyelashes and the apology 'To my child'.

Will my children inherit my failure to act, or will they celebrate a golden era of change? ■



Collage | Thea Chamberlain



**HOLLY GILLIBRAND** Age 14 @hollywildchild

## This Decade Will Define Humanity's Future

For 30 years, we have been waiting for world leaders to act on the biggest crisis facing humanity, and now we have to accept that politics is not going to save us. The system transformation we need will not be driven by our leaders - it will come from us. When it comes to climate breakdown and the ecological emergency, we are the change that we have been waiting for.

Change comes from the most unlikely places. When 16 year old Greta Thunberg sat down outside the Swedish Parliament in August 2018, nobody would have guessed that she would spark a global movement of youth demanding action on the

environmental crisis. On the 20th and 27th of September (#FridaysForFuture week) over 7.5 million people worldwide refused

to go to work and school in defence of our planet.

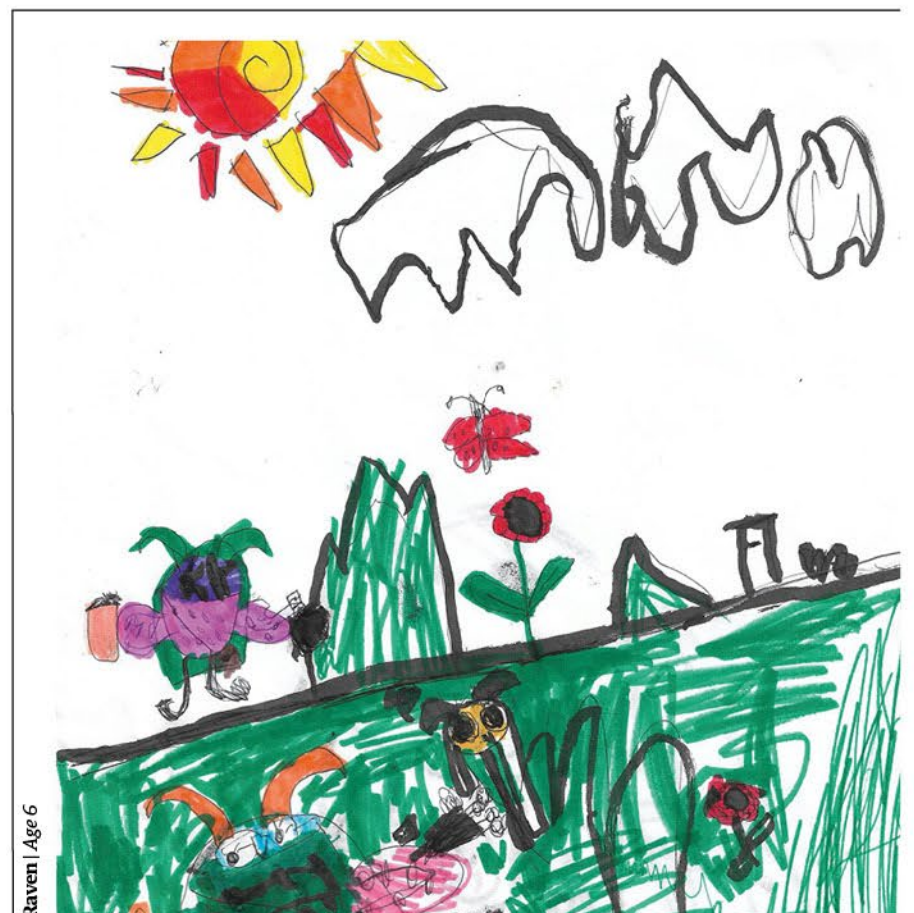
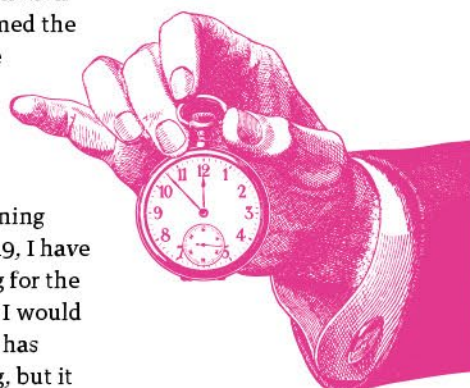
has and it hasn't. Although environmental awareness has rocketed and political parties are beginning to prioritise the environment in their manifestos, there has been no action.

This is our last chance to halt the impending collapse of the biosphere, and we will have to continue school striking for a long time yet. This is just the beginning of what will be the most defining decade in human history. ■

This movement has, along with Extinction Rebellion, transformed the conversation on the climate and biodiversity crisis.

Every Friday morning since 11 January 2019, I have been school striking for the climate and nature. I would love to say that this has achieved something, but it

*"This is our last chance to halt the impending collapse of the biosphere"*



Raven | Age 6





Photo | Ben Darlington

# THE EMPTY SUITCASE: DEATH AND LOSS

by **NICOLE STANFIELD**, Death Cafe Taunton Organiser

I run a regular Death Cafe, and although I tell the attendees in advance that it isn't grief therapy, most people arrive carrying the baggage of loss, whether it's a slender case or heavy trunk. During the general discussion about death, between sips of tea and fingerfuls of cake, the loss presents itself. Within this small silence, they are remembering; within this pause, the loss resides.

We all experience loss, a death that leaves an endless pause in our lives that manifests in a variety of ways. I try to stress at Death Cafe that death itself is not remarkable - everybody dies. Death, who robs us of our loved ones and our lives, Death, a hooded figure shrouded

in mystery and grief, is a wholly natural process to be planned for and talked about like any other normal event in our lives. What is exceptional is the grief that follows; how these feelings affect those left behind, and what we do with them.

It was at the beginning of one of these lifelong pauses that I began the Death Cafe in Taunton. I received an email that my estranged father was dying. At his side the grieving process began,

before I made the decision to end his life support; before he took his last gasping breath. I didn't actually cry until I returned home to England. I had the sudden realisation that my father, a living person, was no more. This confounded me.

That's the paradox of loss: it is an absence, but also a weight. It is the luggage that we're forced to carry, the suitcase that's empty but still unwieldy. I began a Death Cafe in my town to help people start talking about and planning for death, to prevent their loved ones from having to make difficult decisions during and after their death, like I had with my father. I filled my suitcase with action, padding the pause with a project in his memory. We never stop shouldering loss, but through something as simple as attending a Death Cafe, donating our time or money, or talking to a friend, we can try to make the pause meaningful. ■



## WHISTLE-STOP WALKS Along the Thames Path

by **GARETH HUW DAVIES**

Our greatest river begins under a protective spinney in a Gloucestershire field. Did Isambard Kingdom Brunel deliberately route his London to Cheltenham railway within yards of this spot, drawing support from the watery spirits? My train to Kemble Station, a short stroll from the source, started at Paddington, which is only a mile from the Thames at its most regal.

The Thames Path is the most the most accessible of long distance trails. Today I'm walking the first 11

miles.

I follow the stripling river across a field under a line of tottering trees. There are still traces of once abundant haymeadows, through which Victorian writers would wade, kicking up clouds of seeds and perfume all the way to London.

It's odd to walk along a boat-free Thames - the accepted starting point for navigation is Lechlade, 20 miles on - given over entirely to wildlife. A heron rises languidly, with the characteristic resistance to sudden departure of birds with big wings.

St. Sampson's Church, Cricklade, appears, the four pinnacles on its tower like newly sharpened pencils



Photo | Adrian Harris

crammed into a holder. In season, North Meadow nature reserve is a mile-long torrent of pink and purple

snake's head fritillaries.

The young Thames will drift and dream for many more miles, but I leave it here. Still relying on public transport, I take the 51 bus from Cricklade to Swindon station for my train home. ■

## A trip to Pembrey Dunes

Alighting at Pembrey and Burry Port Station I face the intriguing possibility of walking on for two months, keeping the sea on my left, then clinging to Offa's Dyke down the Welsh border, before arriving back at this very spot.

Instead I will taste a modest, introductory 12 miles of the Wales Coast Path to Kidwelly, the next station.



Circumnavigating an entire country will have to wait.

Pembrey Dunes might have



Photo | Adrian Harris

become a munitions testing range - it was previously the site of a royal ordnance factory. The sand hills were perfect for buffering accidental detonations. But the military was seen off in a 1971 public inquiry and it became one of Wales's busiest country parks, bursting with wildlife.

The path enters its most bracing passage. Cefn Sidan Beach is eight miles long, and, it seems, almost as wide at low tide. Visitors are encouraged to do a two minute litter pick. All I can find are three red string bags. A woman walking five dogs, quite against the bylaws, thanks me for

being so public spirited.

I stride on for two straight miles, in the teeth of a warm wind that

sends plumes of sand scurrying towards me, towards an enduring landmark that has resisted the erosive capacity of the tide for almost a century. The SV Paul, a four-masted windjammer, beached here in a gale in 1925. Its surviving skeleton still stands above the sand, wearing imperceptibly away.

It's a few flat miles to Kidwelly. Its military-industrial connections, too, are well past. The coal port has gone, and that immense symbol of power politics, Kidwelly Castle, is the biggest tourist attraction for miles. ■

# NATURE CONNECTEDNESS

## Practising mindfulness in nature

by DR ADRIAN HARRIS

Mindfulness sounds like a panacea for modern day ills: it'll boost your self-esteem, ease your stress and make you happier!

So why aren't we all doing it? In principle, mindfulness sounds simple enough; just pay full attention to whatever you're experiencing right now, without judgement. But in practice it takes just a few seconds before our minds start to wander and what sounded easy starts to feel hard.

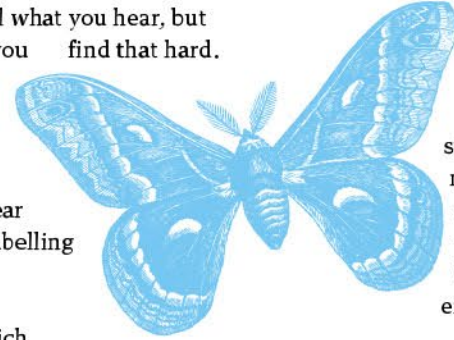
This is where nature comes in, as there's good evidence that it can help you cultivate mindfulness. Notice what catches your eye. Let whatever it is fill your awareness for a moment. What colours and shades can you see? Let your eye slowly run round the edge of it. Feel the texture. Try to imagine

you've never seen anything like it before: In a way you haven't, as every natural object is unique. Then take a minute or so to just listen. Try not to label what you hear, but don't be surprised if you find that hard. You'll probably start making judgements: birdsong is lovely but that squawking is just noise! Can you hear the sounds without labelling them?

Nature provides a rich variety of sensory experiences

to focus on, offers profound lessons in acceptance and - by revealing our interconnectedness - facilitates greater compassion.

Mindfulness can also strengthen your sense of nature connectedness, with some research suggesting that it can lead to people becoming more engaged in environmental action. ■



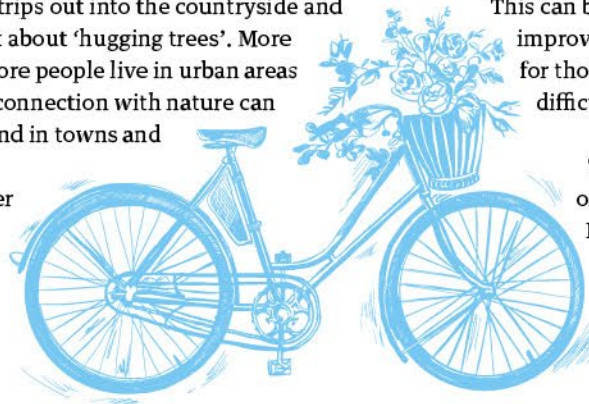
## CONNECTING WITH NATURE IN THE CITY

by PROFESSOR MILES RICHARDSON

We need to reinvent our relationship with nature for a sustainable future. A new relationship that helps slow climate warming and helps wildlife recover. A closer

relationship with nature is for everyone, wherever they live. It doesn't have to be about trips out into the countryside and it's not about 'hugging trees'. More and more people live in urban areas and a connection with nature can be found in towns and cities.

A closer



relationship with nature is also good for our wellbeing. In an increasingly urbanised world mental health disorders affect 30% of the population, but nature-based solutions for wellbeing are often overlooked. Yet the latest evidence

shows that simply noticing urban nature can bring significant improvements in wellbeing.

This can be a clinically significant improvement in the quality of life for those living with a mental health difficulty.

There are increasing demands on our attention, so in the Improving Wellbeing through Urban Nature project we used a phone app to prompt people to notice the good things in urban nature. Users were asked to type in a sentence about the good things in nature once a day for seven days. A month later people reported more positive emotions, improved mental wellbeing and were more connected to nature. Those with a closer connection to nature tend to do more for nature and the environment too.

changing as clouds pass by. When prompted to take notice of urban nature, people also



Photo | Ben Darlington

wrote about flowers and beauty, lakes and rivers and the joy and calm they can bring.

Noticing and benefiting from nature in the city is vital for wider reasons. Wildlife and ecosystems won't be saved in cities, but they will be saved by the votes, decisions and leadership of those living in the city.

Nature needs to become part of our everyday conversations, as normal as talking about celebrities or football, holidays or work. The nature lover doesn't need to be out walking the moors, they can be in the park or at the bus stop looking at a tree rather than their phone. So, stop, look, listen and enjoy the good things in urban nature. ■

People often wrote about the simple joy of encountering urban wildlife, such as squirrels chasing each other in the park, or the enjoyment of hearing birdsong. We also found that urban parks with more wildlife were linked to higher levels of positive emotions. This shows that more 'wild' green spaces that provide better habitat for wildlife can be better for people too.

When writing about the good things in nature, people also noticed street trees swaying in the breeze or lit by the sun. In the city there is always the sky, which is ever

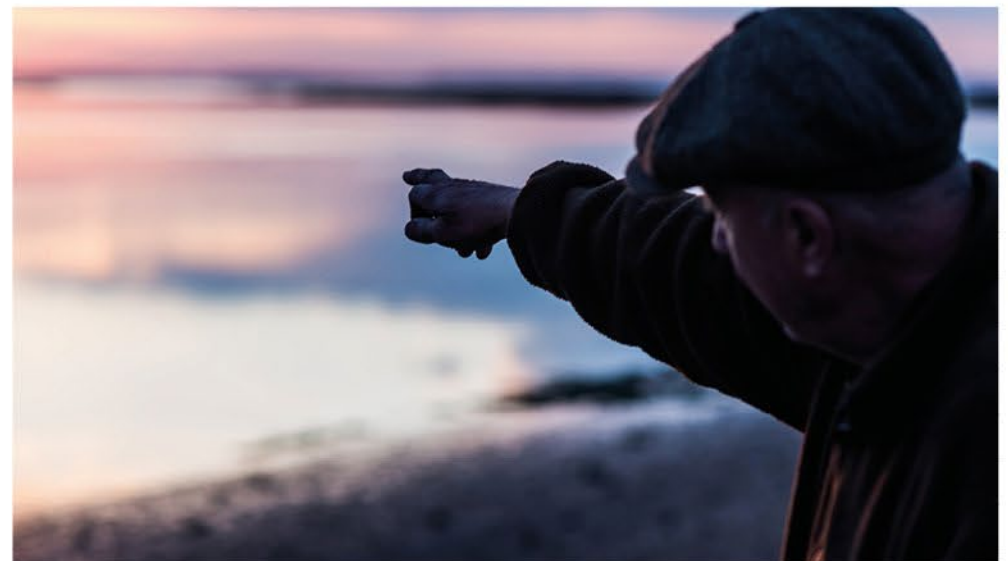
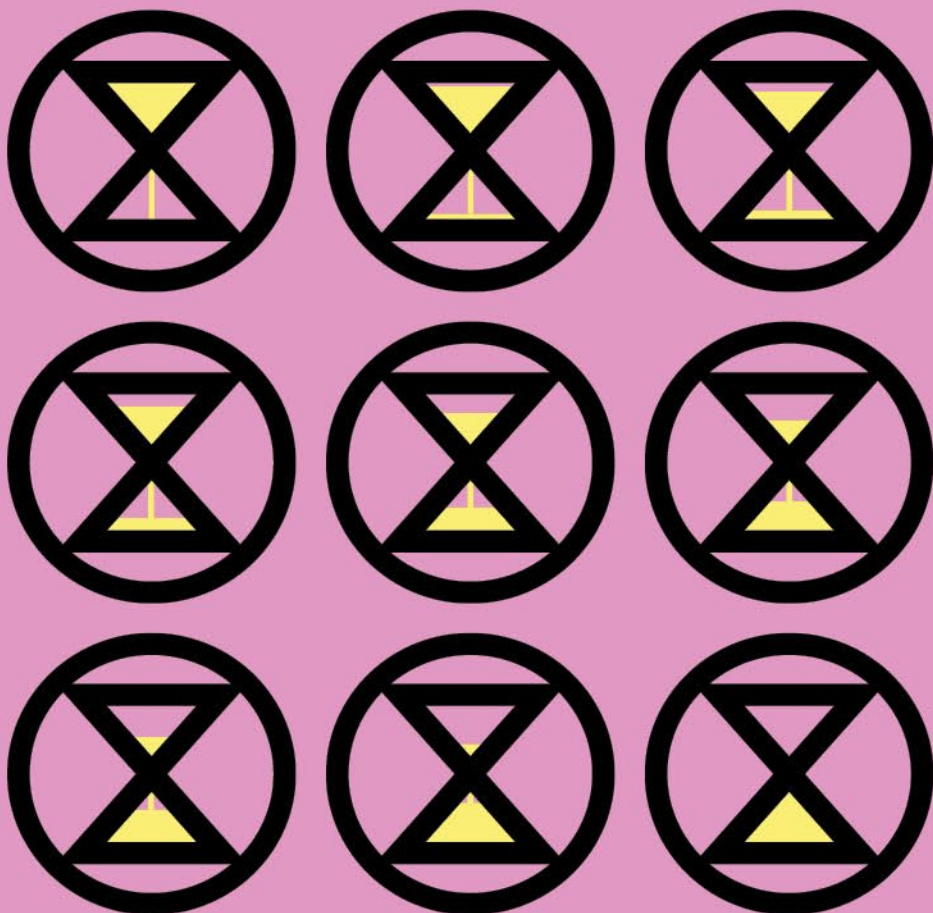


Photo | Ben Darlington

## TIME IS RUNNING OUT





## SPOTLIGHT ON EXTINCTION:

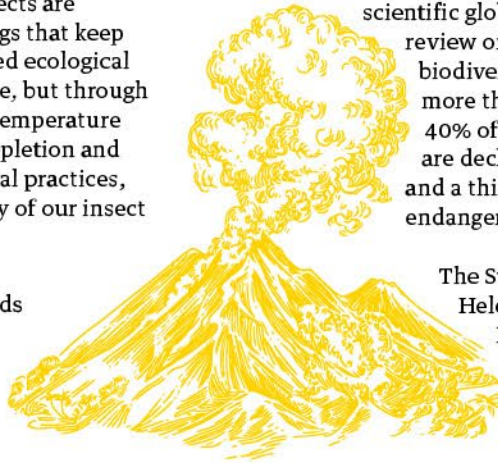
### The St Helena Earwig

by **CHRIS GOWER**

Our planet's insects are collectively the cogs that keep the delicately tuned ecological machine in balance, but through a combination of temperature change, habitat depletion and modern agricultural practices, we are losing many of our insect species.

Humankind needs insects in order to survive. They are crucial decomposers that help to break down and dispose of wastes, dead animals and plants. They are also pollinators, and play an essential

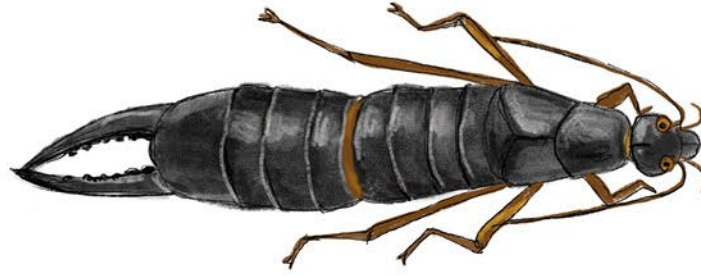
role in the food web. However, according to the latest scientific global review on biodiversity, more than 40% of insects are declining and a third are endangered.



The St Helena Earwig

(*Labidura herculeana*) was the world's largest earwig before it was declared extinct.

Illustration | Tori Dee



Growing up to 7cm long, the earwig was found exclusively on a volcanic rocky outcrop in the middle of the Atlantic. Some naturalists consider St Helena's ecosystem to be as important as that of the Galapagos Islands.

The earwig lived in deep burrows

and would emerge during the night to feed on rotting vegetation. It was mostly found in rocky areas but also observed in forests and seabird colonies around the island.

The last time the St Helena Earwig was spotted alive was in 1965 during an expedition by a

Belgian team of researchers.

In 2005 there was an outcry from conservationists when planning started for the new St Helena Airport which was to be built on Prosperous Bay Plains, a biodiversity hotspot. If there had been any earwigs still alive deep underground, the building of an airport most probably secured the species' status as extinct. A further hunt by Howard Mendel from the Natural History Museum in London also failed to find it during a visit with zoologists Philip and Myrtle Ashmole in 2005-6.

In 2014 the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) declared the St Helena Earwig extinct with a chilling statement: "the habitat...has been degraded as far as this species is concerned... by the removal of nearly all surface stones, under which specimens were then found, for construction purposes". ■



Illustration | Tori Dee

## Beauty and the bug: make your garden attractive to insects

by **CHRIS GOWER**

With insects on the decline, why not roll the metaphoric red carpet out for them by turning your garden into an insect haven?

### CREATE WOODPILES

Insects such as woodlice, beetles and centipedes love a good woodpile. Wood left outdoors is also the perfect habitat for lichen and fungi. It can also house small animals, providing shelter for hedgehogs. Bury the bottom third

of the log to encourage insects that eat dead wood. If you're unable to get hold of natural logs, reclaimed sleepers or gate posts will work just as well.

### GO ORGANIC

Avoid pesticides, insecticides or any other chemical agents that you might be tempted to put on or near your plants. Ladybirds and other insects love to feed on aphids, so let them be!

### PROVIDE WATER

Create a water source in your

garden to keep wildlife hydrated. If possible, dig a natural pond as it will attract damselflies, frogs, newts, dragonflies and many other creatures. Fill it with oxygenating plants that naturally keep the water breathable for its inhabitants. If a pond is out of the question, a 'nano-pond' is nearly as good - made simply of an old bucket kept topped up with fresh water.

### MAKE A COMPOST HEAP

A compost heap is a great way to create natural fertiliser for your soil that will also attract worms and create shelter for springtails, Devil's coach horse beetles, earwigs and perhaps even a place for bumblebees to nest.

Starting a compost heap is straightforward. The RSPB recommends purchasing a compost bin made from slatted wood, and local councils often sell cheap bins. Even better, make your own from reclaimed wood so that wildlife can climb in and out.

### PLANT MORE PLANTS

Think about the types of plants you want to encourage in your garden. There are lots of different bee-friendly plants including lavender and Japanese snowball (*Viburnum plicatum*). Wildflowers and different grasses create a fabulous array of flora for pollinators, and purchasing wildflower seeds isn't as expensive as you might think. Look up 'plants for pollinators' for suggestions. Good luck! ■

## Leaf it alone: does your garden need to be 'tidy'?

by **CHRIS GOWER**

This time of year is a prime season for leaf blowers. Wanting a 'tidy' garden and a drive free of debris is the driving force behind many proud homeowners blowing away the leaves from the paving, but for insects and small animals, that quick garden tidy can spell disaster.

A report by Germany's Ministry of The Environment concluded that leaf blowers and other lawn-care machinery pose a fatal risk to insects and small animals that can be dislodged or sucked up during garden tidying. The German government has called for citizens to use them only as a last resort.

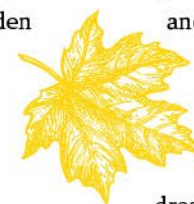
According to The Independent, "bugs are dying out eight times faster than larger animals, with 40 per cent of the roughly one million known insect species facing extinction as a result." Bugs and insects take refuge under fallen leaves, and as the leaves break down they feed the soil

with nutrients and food, not just for insects but bacteria and a vast array of microscopic creatures.

Bugs are also facing demise at the hand of rising temperatures. We can all do more to protect and foster one of the most important cogs of our planet's ecosystem.

If the idea of a completely wild garden fills you with dread, why not start small? Take columnist Jane Perrone's advice: "Clear fallen leaves from paths and rake them up from the lawn, but leave borders untouched (aside from removing any diseased leaves) to benefit hedgehogs and insects".

Creating a haven for wildlife might take a little time: for instance, wildflowers take a couple of years to bloom, but perseverance will pay off. One thing you can do right away though, is to ditch your leaf blower, and invest in a rake instead. ■



# CLIMATE BREAKDOWN LESSONS

by **PAUL BURTON**

In the Geography GCSE, climate change is often a stand-alone topic about possible causes. Carrying out a quick analysis of science courses shows that the AQA GCSE Physics course doesn't mention climate change once, Biology mentions it once, and Chemistry uses the term nine times with a focus on greenhouse gases. The language used by these courses is ambiguous and about possible causes and future impacts, lacking a sense of urgency and the impact on

people's lives today.

To better teach the climate and ecological emergency, I developed a series of 14 Climate Breakdown lessons with associated teaching materials that use the most up-to-date science. These can be used to challenge misconceptions around the climate crisis, and employ a critical perspective to explore broad societal questions. The lessons use enquiry questions to explore ideas of energy, travel and diet.

The broad aim of the project is to

challenge the teaching of climate change in schools, and enable teachers to better develop students' knowledge and understanding to affect positive change. The resources have been accessed more than 5000 times. They are available here: [bit.ly/teachclimatetruth](http://bit.ly/teachclimatetruth)

Please challenge your local school to use the resources to teach climate truth. ■

#TEACHTHETRUTH

## Climate Breakdown

A 14 lesson scheme of work, based on the most up to date scientific evidence, exploring key questions in the fight against anthropogenic climate change.

# THE LAW AND CLIMATE-RELATED RISK DISCLOSURE

by **ALICE BRUNTON**

There are many ways in which the legal system can be better used to protect the environment, both nationally and internationally. The UK could be leading the world in climate-friendly policies. Currently we are lagging behind.

An example of legislation that could help is 'climate-related risk disclosure'. Many businesses are already reducing their emissions, but this disclosure would mean that they also assess the risks posed by climate change to their activities. Climate-related risk disclosure means publishing this risk assessment.

Creating legal requirements in this area would benefit the general public, pension funds

and the wider economy. It would add a layer of mitigation against sudden economic shocks. It should also encourage corporations to invest in greener projects. These may be the cheaper option anyway, given the reducing costs of offshore wind and solar power.

In 2017, the Taskforce on Climate-related Financial Disclosure (TCFD) produced proposals for voluntary climate risk disclosure. Since then, the EU has proposed a new regulation, but has not yet passed a law. In Asia, Japan has published voluntary guidelines, as has the People's Bank of China. France introduced mandatory requirements in 2015, and Australia is also leading the way. Businesses there must now disclose climate change risks in

public financial prospectuses and annual reports. As with all new legislation, it also brings the risk of litigation: in *McVeigh v Retail Employees Superannuation Pty Limited*, a 23 year old is suing his pension fund trustees for failure to adequately assess climate risks.

The UK does not yet have a legal regime, although in 2020 the FCA will consult a second time on proposals, and other regulators have issued statements in support. It remains to be seen whether the new government will prioritise addressing the most urgent cause of our lifetimes. ■

*Alice currently works for a city law firm. Next year she will do a masters in Environmental law and work for charities in the sector. She is a member of Lawyers for XR.*

# CREATING LIVEABLE STREETS AS CLIMATE ACTION



Photo | Terry Matthews

by **ADAM REYNOLDS**

Many of us find the idea of cycling, or even walking our kids to school is a fume-filled, uncomfortable, unsafe experience. We get in our cars and join the traffic, often failing to recognise the irony that we are the traffic.

We can change this by asking our local councils to implement Low Traffic Neighbourhoods. These are places where cars no longer dominate, and children can play outside safely. Promised in the Green Party, Labour (Healthy Streets), and Conservative Manifestos, and the Lib Dems in local manifestos, they simply prevent cars from using residential streets as convenient through-cuts. They create Liveable Humane Neighbourhoods.

Introduced in Waltham Forest, London, under the 'mini-Holland' scheme, people are walking and cycling more, are healthier, and are more sociable. One person said they could hear the birds singing for the first time in years.

Low Traffic Neighbourhoods use modal filters (bollards), bus gates, community-owned pocket parks, tree planting, blended crossings,

and school streets to make it hard or impossible to drive your car through them, while maintaining access for local residents. They enable kids to independently scoot and cycle to school.

Working with your local community groups and local councillors, you can help design and implement a Low Traffic Neighbourhood in your area. They are very cheap, and utterly transformative. If you want to act locally but think globally, they are are probably the biggest local change you can make. ■

For a crib sheet on how to take action visit: <http://bit.ly/ltncribsheet>



Photo | Hannah Woodhouse



# WHERE IS THE INNOVATION THE AVIATION INDUSTRY NEEDS?

by **IMOGEN ALLEN**

“Flying is immoral. If your self-indulgent dream is to fly around the world, you can do it without me.”

My boyfriend has never sugar-coated his opinions, but this cut straight through me. Our planet is replete with beauty. I have always wanted to explore it with the person I love.

Wanderlust inspires us to care about the planet and the people we share it with. Mark Twain said, “Travel is fatal to prejudice, bigotry, and narrow-mindedness, and many of our people need it sorely on these accounts.”

Unfortunately, my boyfriend has a point: though we aspire to break down (or fly over) walls, frivolous aviation could be fatal to more than just bigotry. If we don't get our emissions in check in the coming decade we face climate catastrophe.

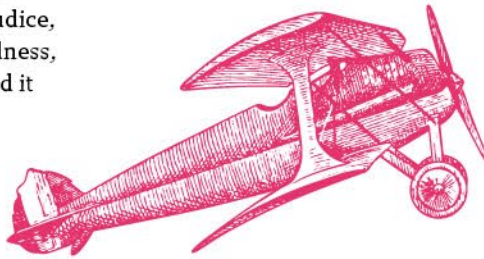
Doing this requires individuals



Photo | Gareth Morris

emit an average of 1.2-1.6 tonnes of carbon dioxide (CO2) per person, annually. Average UK citizens emit around 5.99 tonnes. One return flight to New York (from London) will use a year's worth of emissions in two fell swoops.

I want to see the aviation industry with a considerably lower greenhouse gas footprint.



Improvements are underway. Between 1968 and 2014 the average fuel burn of new aircraft fell approximately 45%, largely thanks to better design and equipment. Moving beyond the need for conventional fuels

entirely, the German Aerospace centre's all-electric CE-liner gives me the most hope for zero-emissions flight. Unfortunately, it is not due to enter the market until 2035.

I am confident that the scientific advances needed are possible within my lifetime, but by the time they are commercially available it could be too late. I hope that human intelligence kicks in before then and people take a step back and wait. More business should be conducted online, frivolous flying can be avoided, and train travel re-discovered. Without collective action now, low lying destinations could be underwater, local communities emigrated and coral reefs bleached and lifeless... There will be nowhere left to travel to. ■

# What I learned from my stay in prison

by **MELANIE EDWARDS**



The van is cold and uncomfortable. We wait outside the prison gates for what seems like an age. My anxiety builds.

Eventually I'm led to the main process building. The staff are friendly. I'm escorted to a waiting room. Five other prisoners are chatting. We introduce ourselves. They ask me what I've done. When I explain, they become friendly and animated. Lots of thanks. I'm sitting next to another prisoner, who I will call May. She's in her late twenties. I have a book with me called The Overstory and May talks excitedly about forests and the environment. After a couple of hours the guards escort us to our cells.

A prisoner who heard I'm a protester runs up to me and pushes bags of crisps and fruit into my hands.

As we enter the wing I'm taken

aback by the level of noise. Voices compete with clunking keys and slamming doors. We are led to simple cells. When the door slams and the key turns, my anxiety rises. I read and let my mind drift.

I become friends with May. She told me about a book she read about a girl who occupied a tree. Life can be extremely strange. On release I give my books to May and we hug and say goodbye. I will never forget her and I want to tell her everything will be okay. I hope so much that she finds peace.

Angels do exist. I was met by one as I walked through the prison gates. They don't come with wings. They come in the shape of an elderly lady who greets and buys every released prisoner a cup of coffee or tea, and walks with them to the train station.

One of my hopes in joining Extinction Rebellion was that the struggle to avert climate breakdown would result in humanity at last learning to live in harmony with the natural world, resulting in a happier and fairer society for all people and all life on our beautiful planet.

On release I felt the full force of that and what it means to be in service to something far bigger than ourselves. ■

## How far will you go to #TELLTHETRUTH?



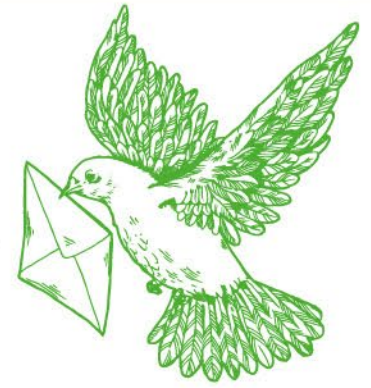
Send your photos to: [hourglass@rebellion.earth](mailto:hourglass@rebellion.earth)



# LETTERS



YOUR QUESTIONS AND THOUGHTS  
EDITED BY THE HOURGLASS TEAM



Hi Readers,

Thank you for your many letters offering support and suggestions for The Hourglass newspaper. Here's a selection of some of the comments you've sent in.

■ Hello. Just a quick thanks to whichever lovely person decided to put the BSL (British Sign Language) sign for 'help' on the back page. It makes someone like me (a Deaf BSL user) very happy to be included in this movement.

Thanks

Anon  
UK

*The back page artwork was designed by Charlie Waterhouse of the XR Art team. Glad you liked it! - Ed*

■ Dear Sir,

I find myself in agreement with most of Donnachadh McCarthy's article (Nov 2019) on how the creation of a national cycleway network would be the single most effective solution to the carbon emissions causing the climate crisis.

In Copenhagen and Amsterdam, about 50% of all urban journeys are taken by bike, because they have direct, safe and continuous cycleways. Here in West Sussex we are campaigning for a direct cycle route between Havant and Chichester. Unbelievably, at the present time there is no continuous cycle lane

between these two cities, even though they are only 11 miles apart! We need a big UK-wide investment in cycle lanes.

However, the one thing the article got wrong is the calculations on the carbon emissions of electric vehicles. According to 'How Green are Bananas, the Carbon footprint of Everything' by Mike Berners-Lee, it costs 6000 KgCO<sub>2</sub> to manufacture a small car, whether it is petrol or electric. The carbon footprint of running an electric car powered by electricity from, say, Good Energy (100% renewable) will save you about 3000 KgCO<sub>2</sub> per year if you travel 10000 miles p.a. (Petrol cars emit about 0.31 KgCO<sub>2</sub> per mile). So an electric car pays back the carbon footprint of its manufacture in about 2-3 years.

Yours Faithfully,

Andrew Gould  
Bosham, W Sussex

■ Hi,

I picked up a copy of the Hourglass newspaper by chance and was mightily impressed!

Many thanks & best wishes,

Russ Berry  
Coventry, West Midlands

■ Dear Left-Wing Politician,

I'm not a politician, nor a person who has been involved in a lot of political discussion with people of your stature. But, I try my best to understand current events, so please do correct me if I am wrong in anything that I suggest.

Obviously, together we are devastated by the results of the last election. People are clearly scared of what the future holds; what will become of our NHS, how people earning less than minimum wage or are unemployed will be able to close the gap with those above them, and what has happened to basic ethical values.

Somehow the view of left-wing politics has been skewed by those who opposed them, painting a picture of old style communism, and socialism that will do the exact opposite of what socialism stands for.

There are certainly enough of us that share similar left-wing values. Many of us that seek a different future to what we are being given, and believe that this is attainable through honest discussion of the issues we face. There are enough of us to gain the majority. So why don't we?

I put some of the blame down to the division in our parties. We split ourselves, and so our votes are cast far and wide. I respect each party on the left side of the

political spectrum, and I would hope to cast a vote for each one.

Right-wing believers have one strong party to get behind.

So let's unify our ideas, unify our beliefs, and gain the majority under one banner. We are one split consciousness that could become one unified party for a better tomorrow.

If not, we'll forever remain divided, letting those in power reign for too long.

I hope it's not too late for us to make a difference.

Regards,

Adam Martin  
Moseley, Birmingham

■ Dear Hourglass Editors,

I came across your newspaper at a tube station while staying in London and just wanted to email you to say THANK YOU for getting this vital information out there. Now more than ever we need to take back the media from the fools who have taken hold of it. Please let me know how I can send you a donation to support your great work.

Yours

Beth  
Hants

*Hi Beth, Please send donations to support our climate reporting to the main site at: <https://chuffed.org/project/extinctionrebellion> - Ed*

■ Hello Hourglass team,

I showed your newspaper to my father, who doesn't use social media, but read the paper cover to cover and then asked for more issues. Well done and please let me know how I can spread the word far and wide.

Maria  
Camden Town, London

*Hi Maria, We're so glad you and your father enjoyed the newspaper. The Hourglass is distributed by regional volunteers, so the best way to coordinate this is to get in touch with your local Extinction Rebellion group, or email [distributionxrnewspaper@gmail.com](mailto:distributionxrnewspaper@gmail.com) to find out who coordinates distribution in your area. Back issues can also be accessed online at [hourglass.news](http://hourglass.news) - Ed*

WRITE TO US

Have your letter featured in the next issue

Send letters to:  
[Hourglass@rebellion.earth](mailto:Hourglass@rebellion.earth)



Illustration | Harry North



# "THIS PLAY WILL SOLVE CLIMATE CHANGE"



## REUSABLE THEATRE

by **LAURA BAGGALEY**, Writer and Director

Reusable Theatre came into existence in response to the climate emergency, when I asked myself that difficult question: what can I do?

As a theatre maker, my instinctive answer was to create a theatrical response, with the aim of spreading the word and inspiring others to take action.

I called the piece This Play Will Solve Climate Change - aiming high! - and recruited four actors to devise it with me. The rehearsal process was an intensive time of discovery and exploration. We read widely, and interviewed people from all walks of life to explore the huge range of emotional responses to the global climate crisis. Then, using improvisation and theatre games, we gradually created four fictional women, of different ages and backgrounds, each dealing with the truth about the environmental

crisis in their own way. We also added cameo roles for my two daughters, aged 7 and 11, to remind the audience of the future our children will face.

The piece has been performed in two different theatres and a library so far, and has received



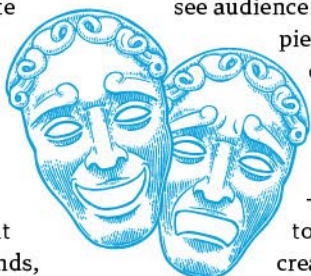
4 and 5 star reviews. It has been moving and inspiring to see audience reactions to the piece. Many people came out asking the question we began with - what can I do? - and in response to this feedback, we created a booklet of 52 Eco Actions, one for each week of the year (this is

available to download for free; please email us for the link).

Reusable Theatre aims to spread the word by encouraging theatre and community groups to stage their own versions of the play - the script is available to all, royalty-free, for

rehearsed readings, workshops and full performances. If you're interested, please visit our website [www.reusabletheatre.com](http://www.reusabletheatre.com) or email [reusabletheatre@gmail.com](mailto:reusabletheatre@gmail.com)

It is easy to feel completely helpless in today's world, but through this project we've discovered it's much easier to be hopeful when you're taking action! ■



### The Cast

**ANCA VAIDA** | Actor

I play Dana and the Quiz Master in This Play Will Solve Climate Change. Sometimes, especially in conversations with climate deniers, I feel lost for words as there is so much to cover and it is difficult to do so with someone who does not want to hear the truth. This play gave me a voice, a way of talking about the issue to people who are not necessarily so



knowledgeable about it.

According to the feedback we gathered, audiences who have seen the play have left feeling energised and wanting to act. Many people feel full of eco-anxiety and fear for the future - fear which can lead to paralysis instead of action. Theatre can tell stories that connect people and inspire them with hope, and that's what we've aimed to do with this play. ■

**ROSANNA PRESTON** | Actor and Creative Producer

When Laura invited me to get involved with this project I knew there was a climate problem that governments didn't seem to be taking seriously, but it wasn't something I'd thought about in depth.

Researching this play brought home the urgency and immediacy of the problem and made me aware of tipping points and the need to act now. Improvising how it feels to be an older person with children helped me to think 'the unthinkable' and consider the future my son's

generation will have.

I'm passionate about getting the message across, so I agreed to become Producer of Reusable Theatre with the main aim of getting other groups to perform the play. I've run my first workshop with the K L Settlement Community Centre, where I worked with 40 English as a Second Language (ESL) students. The most important thing is that people are aware of what's happening and feel empowered to take action, and this play has become a powerful way for me to do that. ■

**SIOBHAN SPOONER** | Actor

Laura Baggaley, the director and writer of This Play Will Solve Climate Change contacted me just after I finished a drama course she had helped to teach. Laura is such a great teacher and director that I leapt at the chance to work with her again. It would be my first fringe show and a chance to find out more about the climate emergency.

The process of making the play was intense; we only had six weeks to create it before its first run. We started by researching the facts, and we experimented with how to share these in an accessible way. We improvised around four characters, developing their personalities,

desires and worlds. Laura then wrote the script, which is updated with new environmental and political issues before each run.

To me, climate emergency means that urgent action is needed to save our world. It also means that a different way of thinking and living is required - a way that is more global and kinder to the planet, people and animals. Although I believe in individual action, I also firmly believe that governments and organisations should be fully mobilising to reduce our environmental impact so that the necessary fast results can be obtained. ■

**CECILIA STASSI** | Actor

Research is a dangerous double-edged weapon; it can either fuel your passion for the world or frighten you to the point of giving up. This play has shown me, once more, the strength of theatre. When humanised, every big issue, even the ones the size of the world, are more approachable. With this production, I feel that theatre fulfilled its role as

an educational, emotion-binding, motivational medium. It also changed me. ■



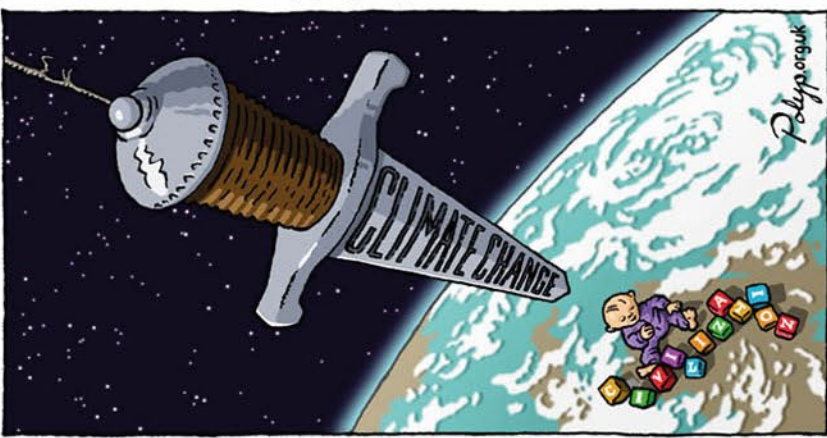
# COMIX REBEL

[e comixrebel@rebellion.earth](mailto:comixrebel@rebellion.earth)  
[t twitter.com/comixrebel](https://twitter.com/comixrebel)

## TIME MACHINE by Stevil & Al



## DRAWING THE LINE by polyp.org.uk



“Comics allow text and image to represent divergent views, allowing for complexity and contradiction within the narrative, all the while packing a powerful punch.”

*Wallis Eates, branch co-ordinator for Laydeez Do Comics*

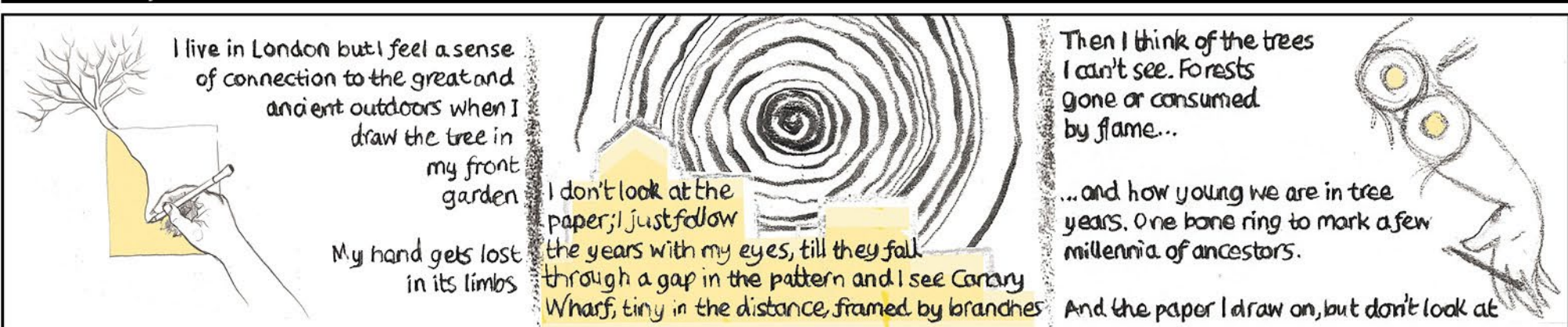
“No cartoonist worth their salt can be ignoring the climate crisis that’s looming over our civilization like a sword of Damocles. Hey, that’s a good idea - someone should draw that...”

*Polyp, cartoonist for The New Statesman*

## SPRAY BOTTLE by Schnumm



## FLAMMABLE by Wallis Eates



## CAPTAIN REBEL by Philip Kingslan John

