

# THE HOURGLASS

## A DOCTOR'S PERSPECTIVE

Doctor Amelia Cussans on why the climate crisis is a health crisis



Page 7

## ART in an Emergency

Neil Gaiman and Amanda Palmer speak out



INTERVIEW Page 6 >>>

# RABBIS AND ROYALS, SCIENTISTS AND STUDENTS, CRUSTIES AND CONSERVATIONISTS: All take to the streets for an unprecedented International Rebellion to call for radical action on the climate crisis

by SYLVIA KLIMAKI

Two weeks of peaceful protesting saw tens of thousands of people in over 60 cities around the world take to the streets to demand that their respective governments act on the issue of climate breakdown.

“International Rebellion”, a global action mobilised by Extinction Rebellion, has inspired extraordinary unity across the globe, summoning people from New York City, London and Berlin, all the way to Sydney, Jakarta and Banjul (capital city of The Gambia). Sainey Gibba, 23, a student who was among the group that led the Extinction Rebellion actions in the country, told *The Hourglass*, “Deforestation in Gambia is increasing, I don’t want to lose my land because of the impact of rising sea levels and become a climate refugee, I am helping educate people in Gambia as the majority of Gambians don’t even know what climate change means.”

The Rebellion spread across multiple US cities with NYC being the largest, “for so long there has been a complete lack of movement and responsibility but finally people are realising that they have power,” said chef and NYC Coordinator Christina See, 35.

Despite 1,500 protesters being arrested globally and over 1,700 in London, people showed creativity, inventiveness and vigour in their approach to peaceful protest: a staged die-in in South Africa, hunger strikes in Rome, picnic protesters in Brussels (of which 453 people were brutally arrested and pelted with water cannons) and civil-disobedience flash mob dancing in Australia were among the stories that



Rabbi Jeffrey Newman shortly before his arrest, London | Photo | Paul Powesland

emerged over the past two weeks.

On 12 October over 30,000 Rebels joined a ‘Strength in Grief’ march across London to mourn the loss of nature and to mark the Day of Indigenous Resistance, which recognises the impact and burden of the climate and ecological crisis on people in the Global South.

Groups of people who you wouldn’t expect to collaborate protested side-by-side: 48-year-old farmer Dagan James who is leading XR Farmers in London had this to say about his Animal Rebellion counterparts:

“we are in constructive discussions and our common priority is to concentrate on our core actions. There are things we disagree on but we are all being affected by climate change so we need to work together”.

People of different religions were working together as one, Christians, Muslims, Jews, Buddhists, and Earth Wisdom Tenders united, holding a “Faith Bridge” in London over the Rebellion. Mothiur Rahman, a 44-year-old lawyer from XR Muslims told *The Hourglass*, “I am praying for Rabbi

Jeffrey and the rest of the people who were arrested today.” The 77-year-old Rabbi Emeritus of Finchley Reform Synagogue in north London, said “I see it as my religious and moral duty to stand up for what I believe in, and what I care about, for my grandchildren.”

Grandmothers, teachers, parents, doctors, scientists, lawyers, actors and artists protested alongside Royals and the terminally ill: 63-year-old Belgian Princess

International Rebellion, London | Photo | Arkadiusz Kasperczyk



»» CONTINUED FROM FRONT PAGE

Esmeralda Dereth was arrested after she joined a sit-in protest in Trafalgar Square, whilst Nick Hodgkinson who has a disability and requires a breathing ventilator travelled all the way from Leeds to join the protests in London. Even Stanley Johnson, the Prime Minister's father joined the Rebellion and said he was proud to be an "uncooperative crusty," a term Boris used to label the protesters.

Over 100 famous figures including Benedict Cumberbatch and Ruby Wax, who also attended the International Rebellion in London, signed an open letter acknowledging that their lifestyles and professions contribute to the climate emergency, and stating that "calling us climate hypocrites will not silence us". Other signatories of the letter, calling on the media to "tell the public the truth about the climate crisis",



include Sir Mark Rylance, Sienna Miller, Peter Capaldi and Vanessa Kirby.

Despite all of these efforts, Extinction Rebellion's demands have not yet been met. In the UK



International Rebellion, Gambia | Photo | Sainey Gibba

these are: that the government tells the truth about the severity of the situation by declaring a climate and ecological emergency; that the UK halt biodiversity loss and drastically cut its greenhouse gas emissions, aiming for net zero emissions by 2025; and that the government creates and is led by a Citizens' Assembly that will make decisions on climate and ecological justice.

On 15 October the Met police in London banned Extinction Rebellion protests from the whole of London. At the time of writing, Rebels have condemned the police's decision as draconian, applying to the High Court in

order to challenge the public order. Various NGOs and politicians have also condemned the ban as unlawful.

Andrew Medhurst, an ex-trader with HSBC and Lloyds who quit his 30-year career to join Extinction Rebellion, says he will not give up: "As someone who used to manage risk when I worked in the bank, I would have never been allowed to take risks that will threaten the balance sheet and blow up the bank, but this is what the government is doing." ■



# LETTER FROM THE EDITORS

Dear Readers,

**We've had a fantastic response** to Issue One of The Hourglass, which was widely distributed across the UK in September. Some of the responses can be seen on page 14. We've also had requests for copies of the newspaper from as far away as Western Norway, Finland, Amsterdam, New York and Canada. It's almost as if people around the world are calling out for climate reporting...

With this in mind, we've also added more pages to this issue, and made the font bigger, which a few of you asked us to do.

We live in challenging and uncertain times. The war-type mobilisation needed to address the climate and ecological crisis is not yet underway, and there's no knowing how the British public will respond to the coming societal breakdown that many experts are predicting.

As extreme weather continues to batter the world, and as natural disasters increase in their frequency and intensity, hectares of crops either dry out or sit

underwater, and millions of people lose their homes and become displaced people, we look to each other. This is not a future scenario: it is happening right now around the world.

In many ways we in the UK are still protected from these extremes, but the climate and ecological crisis knows no borders and soon enough we will feel the impacts of a world that is rapidly heating up. Will we do what we can to bring down our emissions and transition to a low carbon economy, or will we continue with business as usual? Will we form supportive communities to help each other through the worst times, or will we fight over tins of beans and descend into mob rule?

Will we attempt to salvage something for our children and future generations, or will we allow a small minority of people to continue to amass wealth at the expense of our planet?

It's our choice. ■

*The Editorial Team*  
of The Hourglass

## THE HOURGLASS MEET THE TEAM



**ZION LIGHTS**  
Lead Editor



**CHRIS LEDWARD**  
Design Editor



**ANGUS BARR**  
Distribution



**BEN DARLINGTON**  
Lead Photographer

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

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

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

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

### DESIGN

Chris Ledward

### LEAD PHOTOGRAPHY

Ben Darlington

### DISTRIBUTORS

Angus Barr

### CONTRIBUTORS

Alessandra Safiyah Palange, Amelia Cussans, Andy Gheorghiu, Anezka Khan, Daisy May Wyatt, Gareth Huw Davies, Gary Lloyd, Ivan, Jack Fenton, Jack Nicholls, Kimwei McCarthy, Lauren, Lauren Wills, Marianne Brown, Meena Rai, Molly Lipsen, Naomi Leake, Norbert X Mbu-Mputu, Paul Powlesland, Pete Myers, Philip Webb Gregg, Rhys Handley, Rob Goodwin, Simon Bramwell, Sylvia Klimaki, Tori Dee, Zion Lights

### WITH SPECIAL THANKS TO

Amanda Palmer, Darren Cullen, Myke Hall, Ivan, Jessie Brinton, Matt Zeg, Neil Gaiman, Raven Cleland-Lights, Rob Goodwin, Ronan McNern

Everyone who sent in letters and emails  
All the Rebel distributors



*This is the time. Wherever we are standing is the place. We have just this one flickering instant to protect the future.*



# ADVOCATES JOIN FORCES TO CALL ON UN TO ENDORSE WORLDWIDE FRACKING BAN

Photo | Ben Darlington



by **ANDY GHEORGHU**

Over 460 grassroots groups across the world have called on the United Nations to endorse a worldwide ban on fracking via a letter to UN Secretary General Antonio Guterre.

Signed by actors and Mark Ruffalo, Emma Thompson and Amber Heard, authors Naomi Klein and Bill McKibben, Al Gore's daughter Karenna Gore, fashion icons Vivienne Westwood and Joe Corré, human rights lawyer Jennifer Robinson, climate expert Dr. Robert Howarth and public health expert Dr. Sandra Steingraber and many others,

the letter states that the "continued production, trade and use of fracked hydrocarbons for energy, petrochemicals and plastics torpedoes our global efforts to tackle climate change and violates basic human rights."

The letter was organized by the American advocacy organization Food & Water Action (FWA) and its European arm, Food & Water Europe (FWE), as well as the Breathe Project, a Pittsburgh-based clearinghouse

for information on air quality in Pennsylvania.

"The climate emergency is a casting call for heroes, and we need everyone to show up. Step one is to stand up and say, loudly and clearly, that there is no place for fracking on a climate-destabilized planet," said actor Mark Ruffalo.

"Every well and every pipeline adds more methane and carbon dioxide to the atmosphere and pushes us closer to the edge of the climate cliff. The science demands, and our children demand, a global ban on fracking," said actress and UN Human Rights Champion Amber Heard.

Wenonah Hauter, founder and executive director of Food & Water Action and Food & Water Europe, said: "The fracking surge in the U.S. has been a boon for the polluting petrochemical industry, which turns fracked gas into plastics. Our planet and our oceans are

drowning in plastic and fracking companies are profiting. This needs to stop once and for all. We need a global ban on fracking." ■



# CAN FARMING METHODS PREVENT THE UK FROM FACING FOOD SHORTAGES?

by **LAUREN WILLS**

This summer, the UK limboed between record-breaking heat and incessant rainfall. Now, August's wet weather has brought this year's wheat harvest to a "shuddering halt", according to the deputy president of the National Farmers' Union, Guy Smith.

In 2018, Defra found that wheat crop fell 5.1% on the previous year, while barley production decreased by 7.9%, and yields of staples like potatoes fell by roughly a quarter. This was attributed to unusually high levels of spring rainfall and a dry summer.

Some farmers are learning to adapt, for example 60-year-old



Photo | Ben Darlington

Sivalingam Vasanthakumar from Devon who donated his sheep to an animal sanctuary and moved to horticulture. Speaking to the BBC, Cambridgeshire-based farmer Stephen Briggs commented, "It's about taking lessons from nature..."

By growing trees alongside wheat, you expand the productive space up into the air and down into the soil, plus you extend the period of the year that you're capturing the sunshine." ■

## IN OTHER NEWS



Photo | Peter Brooks

by **RHYS HANDLEY**

■ NASA engineer David Burns has proposed a fuel-free engine that could propel spacecraft at "almost the speed of light". It is said to violate the fundamental laws of physics, but he is confident that it is worth a try.

■ Archaeologists at a church in Dingwall discovered a 1,200-year-old Pictish standing stone with beastly carvings "unlike anything found before". Historic Environment Scotland's John Borland praised the "creativity and individuality" of Pictish sculptors.

■ Departing chief medical officer for England Sally Davies has called to ban snacking on public transport to tackle child obesity. Her final report supports

extra tax on unhealthy foods and tighter rules on advertising in a bid to halve child obesity by 2030.

■ Questions have been raised over policing in the UK following a month of turmoil in which Prime Minister Boris Johnson broke the law with parliament suspension, and then the Met Police broke the law by banning peaceful protest across London. Meanwhile, record numbers of climate activists were arrested for protesting in London over two weeks of the International Rebellion, including several MPs, MEPs and Mayor of Woodbridge Eamon O'Nolan.

Answers on Page 4

## WHO SAID IT?

"We cannot be radical enough in dealing with these issues... The only way you can get up in the morning is to believe that actually we could do something about it. And I suppose I think we can"

"On the point of non-cooperative crusties, I wear that badge with pride... A non-cooperative crusty, absolutely superb - do they taste good? That's my thought, I think they do"



WWW.STOPECOCIDE.EARTH

# NEW REPORT REVEALS STRATEGIES USED TO UNDERMINE SCIENTIFIC CONSENSUS

by **MEENA RAI**

Vested interests have diluted the message of climate scientists for years, a new report has found. This has been revealed at the same time as the release of new data from world-renowned researchers that exposes the fossil fuel companies that have continued to contribute to the climate and ecological crisis, while knowing and ignoring the risks.

According to this research, a third of greenhouse gas emissions have been traced to 20 fossil fuel companies, predominantly Chevron, Exxon, BP and Shell. The analysis was undertaken by Richard Heede of the Climate Accountability Institute.

This data comes hot on the heels of research that found that a top UK think tank, Institute of Economic Affairs (IEA), spent decades undermining climate science. IEA has published many books, articles and papers arguing that climate change may not be real.

In a book titled *Climate Change: Challenging the Conventional Wisdom*, the IEA argues against climate science, while another article celebrates “20 years [of]

denouncing the eco-militants”.

The IEA is a registered educational charity, which means that it is entitled to tax breaks. The think tank has so far refused to identify its donors, despite evidence that it has previously received funding from oil corporations. The IEA also has links to 14 members of Prime Minister Boris Johnson’s cabinet.

Additionally, in the United States, the think tank Competitive Enterprise Institute (CEI) has put pressure on the space agency NASA to remove a reference to the scientific consensus from its website. The CEI has received event funding from the American Fuel and Petrochemical Manufacturers and Charles Koch Institute.

A 2013 study in *Environmental Research Letters* found that 97% of climate scientists agreed that climate change is human-driven. This research was based on an analysis of 12,000 academic papers that contained the words “global warming” or “global climate change” from 1991 to 2011. There is now 99% scientific consensus that extreme warming of the planet is human-driven. ■



**WHO SAID IT? ANSWERS**

**1** *Sir David Attenborough*

**2** *Stanley Johnson*  
the Prime Minister’s father



Illustration | Darren Cullen

**WE’RE TURNING OUR CARBON EMISSIONS GREEN FOR EARTH DAY**



BP Protest, National Portrait Gallery, London | Photo | Jamie Lowe



# THEATRES DROP THE CURTAIN ON OIL GIANTS

by **RHYS HANDLEY**

Two of the UK's most prominent theatrical companies have cut their ties with some of the world's largest oil multinationals following threats from supporters to boycott the institutions.

On 2 October, the Royal Shakespeare Company (RSC) confirmed it would end its partnership with BP at the close of 2019. BP's sponsorship



has supported the RSC's scheme providing £5 tickets to 16-25-year-olds since 2013.

Film and stage actor Mark Rylance called for the RSC to drop BP earlier in the year when he resigned from his post as an associate artist at the theatre company.

RSC artistic director Gregory Doran said: "This careful and often difficult debate with, among others, our board, staff, our audiences and artists, has highlighted the strength of

feeling, especially among young people who we would like to benefit from the scheme. "Amid the climate emergency, which we recognise, young people are now saying clearly to us that the BP sponsorship is putting a barrier between them and their wish to engage with the RSC."

"We cannot ignore that message."

The move was announced under increasing pressure from the activist group Culture Unstained, which has now

diverted its campaign towards cultural institutions such as the British Museum, National Portrait Gallery and Royal Opera House, who continue to partner with the oil giant. Culture Unstained co-director Chris Gerrard praised the RSC's "ethical leadership", saying: "The Royal Shakespeare Company's decision to drop BP as a sponsor years before the partnership was due to end is a clear sign that - in a time of climate emergency - fossil fuel funding is just too toxic."

In a statement, BP said it was "dismayed" at the RSC's decision to terminate a scheme it claimed had granted 80,000 young people access to theatre tickets. The

company said it "shares many of the concerns" of climate activists.

Shortly following the RSC's announcement, the London-based National Theatre (NT) confirmed that it would be terminating fellow oil giant Shell's corporate gold membership, which sees it contribute £15,000-30,000 to the institution annually.

The National Theatre said Shell's sponsorship will end in June 2020, as the theatre announced its pledge to become carbon neutral in a climate emergency declaration to "galvanise positive change". ■



## New land management approach can help earthworms thrive

by **RHYS HANDLEY**

The UK's earthworm population has the potential to triple and farms could save on costs, according to the results of an experiment by scientists at Cranfield University.

For his PhD research, Dr Tom Storr found that using cover crops to protect soil and introduce organic matter increases earthworm numbers and provides financial savings for farmers.

Dr Storr, supervised by Dr Jacqueline Hannam and Dr Rob Simmons of Cranfield University, compared the use of a cover crop mixture in a wheat/maize/lettuce crop

rotation on lowland peat soils to a sample treated without cover crops.

The experiment was carried out from 2016 to 2019 and, compared to the untreated crop, the earthworm population of the rotation using cover crops was three times greater at the end of the test.

Dr Storr said: "Earthworm populations can be negatively affected by soil tillage, so by reducing the depth and intensity of tillage we can promote their communities to aid soil structure, water infiltration and nutrient availability."

"The benefits of the cover crop were

particularly notable when they were grown for a longer period.

The continuous vegetation provided by the cover crop combined with reduced tillage, resulted in a huge increase of earthworms - a key indicator of soil quality."

Earthworm populations are important to the environment as they increase the amount of air and water that can get into the soil, helping to break down organic matter such as leaves and grass, which feed plant life.

Cranfield University, based in Bedfordshire, is a postgraduate-only university that specialises in education and research on technology and management.

Its Environment and Agrifood department has worked for 50 years to enhance natural capital and make sure the world's food systems are more resilient for the future,



Photo | Ben Darlington



No earthworms were harmed in this photoshoot - Ben



recognised internationally for its work in plants, soil, water and air. ■



# Art in an Emergency | An Interview with Neil Gaiman & Amanda Palmer



by JACK NICHOLLS

Like so many of us, writer Neil Gaiman and musician Amanda Palmer have been struggling to come to terms with the enormity of what is happening to our planet.

Anyone who has followed Neil's writing and television work or Amanda's music in recent years will have noticed environmental themes rising in prominence. There is the apocalyptic figure of Pollution in Neil's *Good Omens*, and Amanda's references to rising water and hotter summers in her new album *There Will Be No Intermission*. But as political instability and glacier melt worsen, the husband-and-wife team wanted to strip away the metaphors and discuss the climate directly. In a flat during the first week of the International Rebellion, I ask them - why did they contact *The Hourglass*?

"When I saw Extinction Rebellion was starting its own newspaper, I was really excited," Amanda, who has been banging a drum for independent media channels for years.

"I have been concerned with the climate crisis for a long time," says Amanda. "But recently, thinking about our son Ash, I feel more heavily conflicted than I have before. Fighting for feminism and abortion rights is all well and good, but if

there are no people around to make use of those rights then I wonder where my energy is best spent."



In the past few weeks, Amanda has performed at two youth climate marches and brought school strikers up on stage to share her platform. Has she reached a personal tipping point?

"Fighting for feminism and abortion rights is all well and good, but if there are no people around to make use of those rights then I wonder where my energy is best spent."

Neil has been quietly calling for greater action on the climate emergency for years, so I ask him where he thinks our energy is best spent. He has been adjusting his diet and has taken up amateur beekeeping, but he recognises that ultimately, individual actions are not enough.

"I've seen statistics saying

that if every human did x, y, or z it would change very little, while if government and industry did just a fraction of that it would change things enormously. I think that civil disobedience gets attention, has worked many times in the past. It can change minds."

It is Extinction Rebellion's third demand - to set up Citizens' Assembly, that animates Neil the most. "I don't think that governments work currently. I don't think systems solve problems, I think people solve problems. One of the things we know about juries is that sometimes they can get it wrong, but they actually have a

**“What is the purpose of our work in a warming world? What, ultimately, is the value of art?”**

remarkable tendency to work together to try and get their judgements right."

Neil and Amanda freely admit that they do not have all the answers. I ask them - when they talk about supporting climate action, does it extend to Extinction Rebellion's specific strategy of disruption and arrest? Amanda hesitates, then says, "I mean, I'm about to write a blog to tens

of thousands of people all over the UK, suggesting they come see me perform a 'special event' in London, and also suggesting that they take very very good care of themselves and read Extinction Rebellion's guidelines so they understand how to keep safe."

"Are you prepared to be arrested?" I ask. "Yes," she replies, unhesitatingly, but: "I feel conflicted all the time. Should I never fly again, go home to America and devote myself to planting trees? Or does it still make sense to tour from city to city, using a lot of resources, talking to people about compassion and the climate? I can't imagine that I am going to make choices going forward in the same manner as I did even a year ago."

It's a variant of the struggle facing us all. What is the purpose of our work in a warming world? How much carbon is justified to raise awareness of the UN's refugee program, as Neil does? What, ultimately, is the value of art?

This question is central to Amanda's current show, where she grapples with a sense of her own futility. "I wish I had an easy answer, but I don't know what to do half the time. But I'll be honest about it with anyone." Her voice cracks as she adds: "anyway, soon we're not going to have the option of any of this privilege."

Neil nods soberly. "Right now we are killing off huge quantities of animals, huge quantities of birds, huge quantities of fish. There is an extinction event going on, and I, along with pretty much every other human being on this planet, do not have answers. What I do have is hope."

It's a familiar moment in serious conversations about climate change, where we catch a glimpse of the terror many of us already feel.

They may not have answers, but they're in it with the rest of us and committed to the first demand of Extinction Rebellion, which is to Tell the Truth.

"I know that I believe the science," Amanda says, "and I also know that humankind has done extraordinary, revolutionary, magnificent, things fast before." ■



# Comment is Priceless



## REGENERATIVE CULTURE IS THE ULTIMATE REBELLION

**SIMON BRAMWELL**

It is written that a culture grows wise when old men plant trees they will never sit in the shade of. There are no maps to where we now find ourselves. We are all making this up as we go along. There's a truth worth telling.

But there are lessons from history and wisdom from people in the Global South that have already lost their worlds to our madness and greed; these are cultures that co-operate to adapt to harsh futures and collaborate to lessen the effects of industrialised civilisation. Adapt or die has always been nature's lasting invite to life and that is now an urgent demand as our oceans rise, our crops fail, our

forests burn, the air toxifies and countless species are destroyed.

Regenerative culture cannot be a just another lifestyle choice or faddish therapy. It needs to become what we live and breathe, how we love our lands, how we see the world, how we stand up for those being oppressed.

It's how we create a vision of the future so that our children might just have a chance at making a home amid a ruinous future.

Ultimately we must feel this vast dying of life, must suck it deep into our bellies and let it shake the earth we stand on and then take action on behalf of the life remaining to us. ■



## THE CLIMATE CRISIS IS A HEALTH CRISIS



**AMELIA CUSSANS**

Working as an NHS doctor can often feel like an uphill battle. Bottlenecks in the emergency department, constant staff shortages, and lack of funding are among the challenges the health service is up against. All our attention is focused on delivering the best possible care to the patients in front of us.

The traditional NHS winter crises are now matched by summer crises. Trends show that during heatwaves A&E admissions go up with an increasing number of respiratory and cardiovascular deaths amongst the elderly. Extreme heat also raises pollen and aeroallergen levels, triggering asthma which affects around 5.4 million people in the UK.

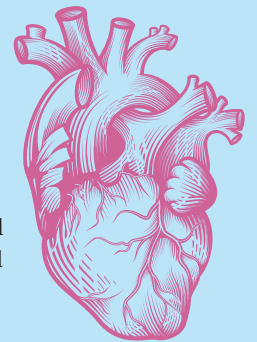
Today at work, the emergency department waiting room is packed, and the corridor is crammed with trolleys holding unwell patients because there are no spare beds. I find myself wondering whether we will remember 2019 as the good old days when everything was under control.

'An ounce of prevention is better than

a pound of cure' is a proverb familiar to all doctors. We should start applying this principle to planetary health. As things stand, the government is failing to respond to the crisis, and is placing the health of its citizens at risk.

**'As things stand, the Government is failing to respond to the crisis, and is placing the health of its citizens at risk'**

There is still hope - reversing climate change needs an astronomical international effort, but has the potential



to be the greatest health accomplishment of the 21st century. The responsibility lies with all of us to do what we can. We owe it to our patients, our communities, and the planet. ■



## LIVING IN TWO WORLDS

**ALESSANDRA SAFIYAH PALANGE**

My generation and my parents' generation have failed. We have failed because I can still hear people suggesting that climate change is a conspiracy or an exaggeration.

We all benefit from science every day, one way or another, yet so many don't listen to the warnings. We blindly go about our daily lives wrapped in a blanket of convenience, ignoring or denying that our reliance on fossil fuels, on wastefulness. A world minority is causing real damage. If most ordinary people aren't aware of the damage, then politicians and the media

have a lot to answer for.

About a month after the birth of my son, the IPCC 1.5 Warming report came out. I was numb and scared. It felt as though we had lived for over thirty years in a collective state of sleep paralysis; awake but unable to move. I was a teenager when my dad visited schools promoting a campaign to reduce individual environmental impact. Twenty-five years later, television commentators are still discussing reducing individual impact; dumping the burden of systemic change on individuals and communities, again. Individuals have tried to make these changes. I've been trying for many years together, but this has changed very little.

My identity is split. On one side I am a Muslim woman, PhD student, mum who has struggled to talk about environmental issues to family. On the other side I know

I am one among thousands of individuals who have been trying for years. Increasingly I see more and more people feeling exhausted and hopeless from dividing their day between different worlds; people who may have family on board but at the office they feel lost, alone against the world.

Yet I felt a shimmer of light running through my head when we declared rebellion. As a decentralised network, a movement of movements, Extinction Rebellion empowers individuals and groups big and small, gives the tools to work together without overly prescriptive guidelines.

The government and the media must

**'On one side I am a Muslim woman, PhD student, mum who has struggled to talk about environmental issues to family'**

tell the truth and act now and give people who represent all walks of life a chance to have honest, in depth, transparent, evidence-based discussions about what we should do next. By consulting experts, people will be able to work together and make a plan beyond superficial political TV debates, beyond party rivalries, and beyond short-term goals focused on winning the next elections.



The current political system was not designed to deal with the scale of rapid changes we need right now. Now, we need the political willingness to invest in people. We need to change the narrative that this process will involve only sacrifices and no joys. I don't believe that's the case at all.

All we have left to do now is succeed. ■

# YOUTH VOICE



Age 19

DAISY WYATT

## Why we rise up

We are rising up. We have been for almost a year now. It's hard to ignore, especially now when we are reaching out on a local scale for new rebels to join us. That was what we hoped to achieve when we took to Blackheath Common in our hundreds and enjoyed the light and hope the rebellion gives us, encouraging passers-by to become enthusiastic observers, then engaged audience members and finally passionate rebels. It's

happening all over the country now.

Our message is simple: we need fast, effective action mobilising 3.5% of the population to enact real, substantial change. Disruptive actions show the public what inconvenience really looks like and what it will be like when the wheels of the Earth really come off, but it can also be alienating for some people. We invite the

public in the experience that in all its glory so they too feel our love for this planet and each other.



Rebels in some countries can't take part in peaceful actions without the full force of their police reigning down on them. This is why we need to rise up in our own country, we are lucky to be people with true power in numbers. So we rise up, we rebel, because we have the privilege and the passion to and because at this point, the whole world's at stake. ■



ANEZKA KHAN Age 16

## WE NEED YOU TO LISTEN

Much of the criticism surrounding the Extinction Rebellion movement is that they scare children and make them fear for their lives, but it's no different to children seeing death and war on the news everyday. The moment something is presented to the public that requires people to be proactive and change their own lifestyles, there's an issue. We are murdering our planet step-by-step, tearing down our forests tree-by-tree and killing our animals one-by-one.

limited.

As a young person, no one understands better than I do how frustrating it is when no one listens. It's



understandable if you're ignoring me for wanting a new phone, or expensive makeup, but I don't want those things. Not all teenagers want those things. I want my life. I want to live without the constant reminder that life is temporary because every time I turn my head we're ruining our planet, again. The next time I look at the news, I want to see a headline about us doing something right for once, I want to see us making changes.

As a young person, I'm not scared. I'm empowered. My generation has done more for this planet than any other generation has even thought of doing. My generation has done more than any child should have to do. We have gone above and beyond for this planet, all we ask for now is for help. I'm a teenager, the extent of what I can do with regards to 'saving the Earth', so to speak, is

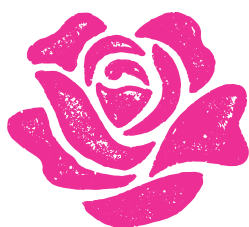
There is no definitive handbook listing what we should and should not do, but most things are self-explanatory. Do you want to know why the Amazon rainforest is burning? Because of us. Farmers setting fire to trees to make room for livestock. This is real, stop ruining this planet for the rest of us just because you can't handle the truth. ■



LAUREN Age 20

## Climate justice is about social justice

In September millions of people all over the globe marched for Climate Justice. When we chant that we want



stand united with people worldwide, we must consider climate justice globally.

We often talk about saving our futures and the futures of our children, and it is true that the worst impacts of climate breakdown are yet to come. But by talking about our futures, there is a danger of neglecting the present and framing the climate and ecological crisis as something that hasn't arrived. For many people on the frontline, the problem is already here and now.

This crisis is intimately tied to social justice and civil rights.

Marginalised communities are far more exposed to its impacts. Locally, nationally, globally, our societies are not fair.

Climate breakdown exacerbates existing inequalities: inequalities between rich and poor, men and women,

*“Campaigning for climate justice must mean being a feminist, an anti-racist, an advocate of class equality and migrant rights”*

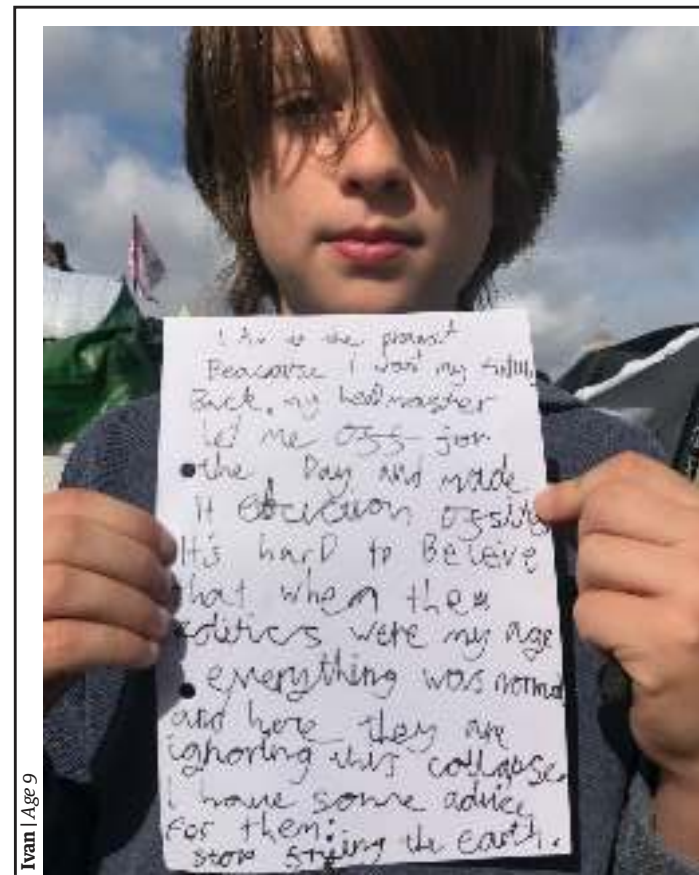
white populations and people of colour, residents and refugees.

Confronted with water crises and searing temperatures, it is women in the Global South who are responsible for farming and sourcing food, water and fuel for their family. Yet prevailing social and political barriers obstruct their capacity to cope with these challenges. They are not given the opportunity

to advocate for themselves and make their voices heard, despite their strengths and experience.

That these communities suffer most during a crisis should not be accepted as inevitable.

Campaigning for climate justice must mean being a feminist, an anti-racist, an advocate of class equality and migrant rights. ■



Ivan | Age 9





## A VOICE FROM THE CONGO

by **NORBERT X MBU-MPUTU**

I am originally from the Democratic Republic of Congo, the African second largest country after Algeria. The population remains one of the poorest in the world, but with its 5,000 kilometres of Congo River continuously delivering millions of cubic meters of natural water and its rainforest basin, the largest in Africa, Congo is the second largest world ecosystem reserve after the Amazon.

Such a reserve of trees, rare species and newly discovered bog reserves may be damaged and mismanaged if we don't take care.

When one is talking about the

Congo, it is important to break such ongoing silence about the Congo War by opening parenthesis to explain that such a so-called deadly African after-independence war has been taking place in the Congo since 1996. The ongoing atrocities have left the populations abandoned to themselves.

The Nobel Peace Prize winner, the late Kenyan Wangari Mathai, founder of Green Belt Movement, told me: "One must not think of taking up arms to become a warlord to change the world; one must meet the people with whom he can share a vision, join an already successfully vision and to become a disciple of worldwide campaign to bring back in his community. Sometimes you have to start like me who plants the trees in the villages".

Extinction Rebellion is planting such wonderful seed of global change. As an exiled person, it is also my duty to transplant this in my native country, so that we can become part of a movement that will save our planet, our only space of living. ■



## WHISTLE-STOP WALKS

### Exploring the Chilterns

by **GARETH HUW DAVIES**

The turbo train roars away and deep peace descends on Great Missenden station. Once the country railway mood music would have been clanking milk churns and cooing racing pigeons in straw baskets. Today the only sound is the unfolding of my map and a sweet rhapsody from a wren.

I'm in the heart of the Chilterns, and a tangle of footpaths leads to all compass points.

The Chilterns is an appropriate destination for a car-free future.

The Metropolitan Railway was promoting days out into this glorious wedge of countryside to the northwest of London even before the petrol engine was invented.

Later the trains that carried the bowler-hatted battalions into town from what became Betjeman's Metroland needed passengers on the way back. Londoners were tempted forth on excursions.

45 miles long, from the Thames to just beyond Luton, the hills are nowhere more than 14 miles wide. There are 1,200 miles of footpaths, and 13 stations on five separate railways to connect to them. The average distance between stops is five miles. So many possibilities to alight at one and walk on or back to another.

I strike north on a route through the region's secret middle, the South Bucks Way. The Long Distance Walkers Association posts a detailed map on its website. The red line of the path magically unfurls in front of me. I ponder delicious cartographic possibilities. A saunter down Hogtrough Lane perhaps? Or a picnic on Parslow's Hillock?

In no time I'm ticking off the

key points of Chilterns' appeal: hill, wood, village and stream. One moment I'm in the trees, listening to that supercharged head-banger, the woodpecker. The next I plunge down a sudden slope, flints gleaming under foot, into a vista that hasn't changed much in 1,000 years.

You find them all over, tight valleys called something like White Hawridge Bottom, where the only thing you see all day is a lumbering tractor turning over the chalky fields in toffee-like slabs. It's a short step to Wendover Station and my train home.

A simple low carbon jaunt. ■

## A day in the Cotswolds

The Great Western Railway website performs a useful calculation when I book my ticket for a Cotswolds day out. Making this trip by train I'm responsible for 58% less CO2 than if I'd gone by car. As we begin to take the true environmental cost of travel

seriously, expect to see much more of this extra detail.

I chose the Cotswolds because it's a perfect destination for our carbon-conscious times, as we redefine what we understand by tourism. What counts as a satisfying leisure trip? Does a day out (ideally by public transport) among this region's gorgeous golden stones leave you any less spiritually fulfilled than the energy-intensive long haul to Angkor Wat?

Cotswolds prosperity was founded on the Middle Ages equivalent of oil revenue: the wool trade. But in terms of aesthetic legacy, the constructions in golden stone those riches funded, from the sumptuous wool churches to the elegant field walls that thread up and over so many hills, display none of the gaudy extravagance financed by petro-dollars.

They form a splendid gilded border to the wide boulevard through the heart of Moreton-in-Marsh. Hotels, tea shops, galleries and, as far as I can see, not a single familiar national catering or retail name. My favourite golden memory is the Victorian Infant School, now a private house.

Evenlode is a perfect example

of the Cotswold village, seeming



to grow organically out of the soft hills, valleys and little woods. JB Priestley summed up the buildings' ineffable colour. "Even when the light is cold, these walls are still faintly warm and luminous, as if they knew the trick of keeping the lost sunlight of centuries."

I reach the edge of the National Trust's Chastleton House estate. My path falls away to Adlestrop. Before me, in reverse, is Edward Thomas's vision of ever-widening circles of singing birds. There is memory of Jane Austen's three stays in the village, and her story is told in the church.

As I cross the station footbridge my train, sleek, new, fast, and a harbinger of better public transport to come, glides in. ■



## A Proposal for an Ecocide Law

by **STOP ECOCIDE: CHANGE THE LAW**

Right now, large-scale and systematic destruction of the natural living world - ecocide - is legally permitted. Current

regulations simply do not stop the scale of harm we are witnessing play out across the planet.

Climate litigation (suing) may result in compensation, but it cannot prevent dangerous industrial activity from continuing. We believe ecocide must become an internationally recognised crime, implying personal criminal liability for government ministers and CEOs. Without such a crime in place to protect the Earth,

climate and ecological justice are next to impossible to achieve.

Ecocide is not just about CO2 emissions. It is also about deforestation, biodiversity loss, water pollution, soil depletion, overfishing, industrial farming, oil spills, indeed any activity or technology leading to widespread, long-term or severe loss, damage or destruction of ecosystems.

With one simple legal change, all of this

can be addressed. To amend the Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court, it only takes one Head of State to propose that amendment and a 2/3 majority vote to adopt it. The moment of proposal is key, because when a crime of ecocide becomes visible on the horizon, civil society across the world has a powerful lever to pressure their own governments. ■

## RIGHTS OF NATURE

by **PAUL POWLESLAND**

I am a member of a group of lawyers that has written a Declaration of Rebellion to call for Justice for All. We call for climate justice for everyone on Earth, for intergenerational justice, and for ecological justice. I will write about the last point here.

Historically, in the UK legal system nature has been seen as inanimate and treated as property. Trees, rivers and mountains are

owned by the landowner on which they sit who (subject to some planning and environmental regulations) can do what they like to them. Last year I set up Lawyers for Nature to represent the natural world and all who are seeking to defend it.

However, I often feel in court as though I am fighting a losing battle. Given that the law does not recognise the rights of nature, I often that the 'rights' of those who wish to destroy our earth and the natural world (e.g. through fracking, carbon emissions, etc) take precedent. The few victories that we have are often on the basis of using an alternative legal mechanism (e.g. the human rights of protesters seeking to protect the natural world), but these wins will not be enough to hold back the tide of those who



seek to profit from the destruction of the natural world which is deemed to have no rights and often little value.

Our legal system has had no problem granting rights to non-humans over the centuries: for instance, companies are entirely fictional entities, but they have legal rights similar to people under our law. To a growing number of people, it seems inexplicable that we grant legal rights to things (like companies) that are ultimately fictions but give no rights to things like trees and rivers, which do exist in the real world and on which life ultimately depends.

Many people around the world are pushing for nature to have legal rights, with the fight being led by Indigenous groups who have never forgotten the truth that the natural world is a living being, with its own right to exist. In Ecuador, the rights of Pachamama were included in the country's constitution. In New Zealand, the Whanganui River was granted legal rights and personhood in 2017, following many years of campaigning by the Maori people for whom the river is a sacred being.

Given that the UK is a country which has suffered one of the longest and deepest disconnections from the natural world, it is unlikely that Parliament will be passing laws to grant rights to rivers and trees anytime soon. That is not a reason to give up this fight

though, but rather to change our tactics.

Local groups are finding that a grassroots approach can work: the River Frome was the first river to be given rights under local byelaws.



If local people begin to see their own rivers as sacred, this can make a big difference, particularly if it is followed up by practical actions like clearing rubbish from the rivers, preventing pollution and sewage from entering them, and making local declarations that the river has rights. Similarly, if people begin to see trees as having rights and, like the protesters in Sheffield, use non-violent direct action to enforce those rights, this has the ability to powerfully shift the narrative on how the law treats nature in our society, and help to save as much of it as possible from destruction in the ecological emergency that we now face. ■

## Re-Tree It! Do you want to set up a tree-planting group, but you are not sure how to get started?

Join treesresponsibility (Climate Action in Calderdale) for a FREE programme of 4 residential weekend trainings, plus one day training on working with schools (by arrangement). The emphasis will be on inclusive, practical and experiential learning.

Expect the trainings to be hard work (including physical work outside) but also a lot of fun, and a chance to meet people with a wide experience of tree-planting and running groups. Accommodation will be in hostels, with delicious vegan food provided from Friday evening through to Sunday lunchtime.



Interested? Email [treesresponsibility@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:treesresponsibility@yahoo.co.uk) or ring 07847 815926



Photos | Ben Darlington



# BRITISH WILDLIFE ICONS:

## The bumblebee and the importance of wildflowers

by **TORI DEE**

A small insect that has been lucky enough to receive media attention over the last few years due to declining numbers is the humble bee. Over a third of the food we eat relies on pollinators to grow, and there are a number of factors impacting bee populations across the UK.

One of the biggest threats is the loss of habitat. Over the last fifty years, intensive urban development and the increase in land being used for agriculture has meant the rapid decline of wild areas. Friends of the Earth put the figure at



97% loss of wildflower meadows since World War Two. Not only does this drastically reduce the amount of food available to pollinators, it also takes away safe places to nest. Bees require a varied diet just as we do, so a range of pollinating plants is needed to keep populations healthy.

Climate change is also impacting our bees. Warmer, wetter winters and shifts in our seasonal weather patterns impact bee nesting times, and if flowering plants bloom at different times, this can disrupt feeding patterns.

With all these adversities facing bee numbers, it can be easy for us to feel despondent and helpless, especially when the



Illustration | Tori Dee

major changes need to be made by big corporations and that feels out of our hands. The good news is that the global population is waking up to the biodiversity crisis and demanding changes.

One positive change that was passed by the European Union is a ban on neonicotinoids which

are accepted as one of the most damaging pesticides used in modern farming. Post-Brexit it is important that we as a nation keep the pressure on our government not to reintroduce these into UK agriculture or encourage imports of harmful pesticides from countries where they are still used, like the

USA.

There also is one direct and personal difference that each and every one of us can make, and that is to increase habitat at home. Wildflowers are a vital cog in the pollinator's machine, but many urban gardens are highly manicured with the complete removal of all weeds. Weeds and wildflowers are vital pollen-bearing plants and we can all make a difference in our own gardens or if we have no garden, in window boxes. With 25 million homes in the UK, just one square



metre devoted to wild growth or sown with wildflower seeds would give us 25 million square metres of food for our pollinators. Even a small window box can be sown with pollen bearing flowers and wildflowers. A small change for us that would make an enormous difference to one of the smallest members of our iconic British wildlife collection, the bee. ■



Illustration | Tori Dee

# Eco Grief

by **NAOMI LEAKE**

Death is an everyday occurrence and yet death is incomprehensible in the mind of the living. An old person dying is an ordinary event, but it is extraordinary if it is someone you love. The impact of grief can be so overwhelming that it can strip a person's life of

meaning and rinse them through with a renewed intensity of love, but with nowhere to enact it.

Eco-grief is as overwhelming as, and maybe more intensely incomprehensible than, the loss of a loved one. If you fully accept the science and everything that we may lose as a result; a stable climate, a fertile planet, our children's security; a tsunami of emotions ranging from despair

to disbelief swiftly follow. Acceptance of the scientific truth means you then have to process a fatal diagnosis. With eco-grief the diagnosis is not just for you but for every single living thing.

Who wouldn't struggle with this? Hopelessness is an aspect of grief and if you retreat, hopeless grief will grow darker. It is too much for anyone to deal with on their own.

Do nothing and the anxiety and grief may spiral. Your love puts you in the perfect position to create change, to create hope and a new internal landscape for yourself and those around you.

If you take action, hope may be released in you. You may find others like you and together you can project possible new futures. There are so many ways to act, from your home, in the streets, at work and through engaging those around you in conversation. Every little thing that you do counts, for you and for the future of all living things.

Joining Extinction Rebellion helped me. It gave council to my grief, plugged me into a community and helped to release the pressure of what I was carrying. I've taken grief walks in nature, understood the culture and potential of regeneration, and felt seen. My action as a conscientious protector is by turns, sad, hilarious, and buzzing with appetite for life. Grief is still there but distracted and often very practical - to remind me of my loving connections with others and why I need to act. ■

# The sound of nature

by **MARIANNE BROWN**

Listen up!

Are you a good listener? Let's start with rhubarb. A few years ago a farm in Yorkshire posted a recording of their rhubarb growing. The bursting buds and squelching mud are quite a surprise - a mixture of popcorn and beatboxing.

Tuning into the soundscape is an important way of reconnecting with the rest of the living planet, for example bird calls, the thrum of pollinators, and running water. Every ecosystem has a unique sound, as each organism occupies their own 'sonic niche' in order to be heard. But not all the sounds around us are therapeutic. Increasingly, the natural soundscape is being disrupted by human-made noise, crowding out the voices of other living things. City blackbirds have been shown to change the pitch of their song, possibly to compete with low frequency traffic noise. For killer whales, however, the consequences are dire, as research shows that the sound of ships affects their ability to find food.

Humans also suffer the

consequences of the noise we make. According to the World Health Organisation, exposure to noise like road traffic can lead to a number of health problems, including heart disease and stress-related mental health risks.

Then there is inner noise. Michelle Brenner, a conflict resolution consultant based in Australia, writes about how overuse of technology like mobile phones is sapping our intuition, affecting our ability to communicate with each other. "To listen to our inner selves or others is an art, it is a gift to give and a gift to receive, and it is a choice," she writes.

In a world where debate means shouting over opposing views, good listening skills are more important than ever. As primatologist Jane Goodall said: "Change happens by listening and then starting a dialogue with the people who are doing something you don't believe is right." Whether it's our view about how to tackle the environmental crisis, or what we think about rhubarb, attentive listening can change the way we see the world. ■

# COLNE VALLEY IS OUR AMAZON RAINFOREST

by **PETE MYERS**

HS2 is a transport project that will involve destroying acres of British countryside. It's an express train service to climate and ecological disaster and it's the first thing the Government should scrap if they are serious about the situation we are in.

It will cost over £100 billion of taxpayer's money, for a project that is incompatible with the 2050 net zero emissions target and that will destroy over a hundred ancient woodlands, and

hundreds of other precious wildlife sites.

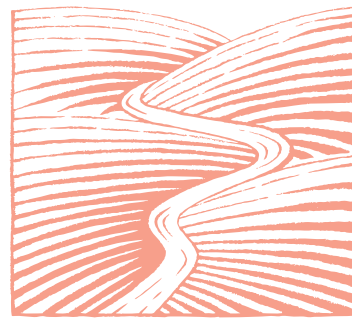
Local groups have been mobilising along the proposed new trainline for some time now, notably in Colne Valley where HS2 threatens immense environmental damage to wildlife habitats. More than 2,000 trees have already been felled. The Harville Road Protection Camp has been holding space there for two years now, defending the land and water.

The UK needs to reforest as much land as

possible to help combat rising emissions, but the development of HS2 will instead destroy acres of vital woodlands, and all the plant and animal species that

thrive within them. Colne Valley is our Amazon rainforest.

People are fighting to protect it. There is now also a camp at South Cubbington Woods, occupying the ancient woodland that is first on HS2's list for destruction. More camps are being prepared along the proposed trainline, and more people are needed to help hold the line. ■



## UNDERSTANDING ENVIRONMENTAL RACISM

It's not the only reason I'm a climate activist, but being involved predominantly in human-based issues of injustice, environmental racism is a key reason to devote considerable time to this issue if nothing else.

A few years ago, I heard Corey Booker speak about the pig farming industry in North Carolina. I learned that parts of rural North Carolina are known as hog country. Home to many pig farms, the area is infested with buzzards, flies, and the stench of rotting carcasses and faeces. Waste from the farms is flushed out into lagoons and then sprayed over surrounding fields. Air and water pollution through faecal matter lead to higher blood pressure, asthma

and other respiratory problems. Most of these communities are predominantly inhabited by poor people of colour.

This is just one example of how industrial meat production not only contributes majorly to global greenhouse gases, but how the system itself is racist and classist. The climate crisis we currently face will continue to first and worst affect the most marginalised, historically discriminated against and poorest people in the world. As a white person of privilege, I make no hesitation in pointing out that the worst perpetrator of global warming is, as usual, the rich, white West. The frequency and intensity of deadly and destructive natural disasters are

by **MOLLY LIPSON**

also increased by climate change.

These catastrophes tend to affect those in the Global South and poorer communities in the USA. Even where they don't, increased natural disasters mean that areas without the resources and infrastructure to deal with the aftermath are hit hard and unable to recover.

The West is neither welcoming nor prepared to deal with the influx of displaced people that climate breakdown will trigger. We must, then, understand what environmental racism means for displaced people and do everything we can to address these inequalities. ■

## BUILD AT THE SPEED OF TRUST



Photo | Ben Darlington

by **KIMWEI MCCARTHY**

It's March 2019 and I'm helping Jake load four full drum kits out of his van and back into storage. He tells me, "Samba is definitely the way forward. I realised it after the last protest we both did playing those two djembes. It wasn't enough. With Samba drums you can march. Everyone can hear you coming and they all want to join in."

I'll be honest, until I saw it for myself, I had no idea why marching drummers would be good at a protest. But I trusted Jake. I'd played with him for years, watched his effortless gift for bringing people together through music. By the time I met the April Rebellion band they were already a tight-knit group, rehearsed and ready. We marched together on the roads in place of cars, drumming with such energy, and it was then that I saw that Jake was right: standing on the shoulders of a tradition of Brazilian Carnival Music, we lifted people's hearts. And why not, after all, celebrate the wonderful world we are fighting to protect?

Through the band, I saw the building blocks of a community. The

drummers made decisions together, hearing every voice. We never asked people to join. We would just say: "There are plenty of spare drums if you want to come along." The band didn't issue requests, only invitations; offers of inclusion.

Jake used to say to me "build at the speed of trust", and he was right; we needed strong bonds, which can only grow that way. Where would we have been without group trust when we arrived at Parliament Square and marched its four corners to take the ultimate stand against hundreds of police? When I saw the tidal wave of drummers storming down Regent's Street to Oxford Circus to interrupt police taking the Pink Boat, it was loyalty that made me take up the whistle for the first time and lead alongside Jake.

What I did surprised me, because I realised I would not have done those things for myself, but I did them in a heartbeat for my community because they would for me. Since when have any of us mattered that much, been heard, considered, appreciated and defended? This is what democracy feels like. ■



Illustration | Celeste Sterling

# FOLK TALES

## Gilgamesh and the Death of Eternal Life

by PHILIP WEBB GREGG

Once there was a story about a powerful king who mistreated his people, defied his gods, and sought to abuse the fundamental laws of nature. I know this sounds like most of the hero tales ever told, but this is the original. The very first of the man-child god-hero genre. Here is the birth of a monomyth that has soaked into our collective narrative consciousness for over 4,000 years. Here is a thick thread of ego and masculinity that leads all the way to our modern knot of catastrophes. Here is Gilgamesh.

Generally regarded as society's 'earliest surviving literary masterpiece', The Epic of Gilgamesh dates back to roughly 2100 BC and the Sumerian city of Uruk (modern-day Iraq). It follows the journey of King Gilgamesh

as he rises to his highest point, falls to his lowest, and eventually seeks redemption. It's a story of butchery, intense brotherly love, and an all-consuming fear of death. It's also a story that uncannily echoes the state of the world today, with our cruel and lustful leaders, our disregard and disdain of the natural world, and our dread of inevitable, looming change.

The epic begins by proclaiming Gilgamesh as 'supreme over other kings, lordly in appearance' and he 'who opened the mountain passes, who dug wells on the flank of the mountain' - make of this what you will, but it sounds a lot like fracking and fossil fuel mining to me.

Hereditary ruler of Uruk, Gilgamesh does more or less whatever he wants. Eventually the people rise up and demand a challenger from the gods. The gods agree to create the wild-man Enkidu, who subsequently becomes tamed by a

temple harlot called Shamhat through a two-week long act of sacred prostitution. Alas Enkidu isn't quite strong enough to defeat Gilgamesh, but once the battle is over the two become the firmest of friends. From here the

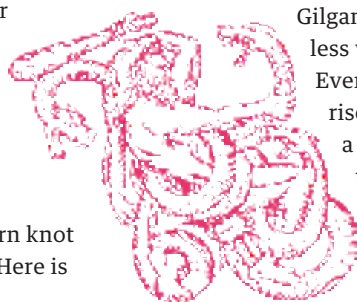


Photo | SV Wolfland



epic moves into its next stage, as the newly formed duo go on to commit multiple acts of violation against their faith and their natural environment.

Our generation is not the first to think it will be the last, but it is the first to face the terrifying global and spiritual crisis of our situation.

The Epic of Gilgamesh ends with the journey to seek out

Utanapishtim the Faraway, who is reportedly immortal. Driven by rage and grief, Gilgamesh confronts scorpion monsters, outruns the sun, and punts across the River of Death, but it's all for nothing. Gilgamesh returns home to the great city of Uruk, a changed and broken man, ruminating solemnly on the wonders of human, natural, and godly creation. ■

## Civil Disobedience is Inevitable

by @BANTHEBBC

We are entering a time in UK public life where faith in long standing democratic processes and decision making are in terminal decline. The evidence of this is all around us. There have emerged single issues like Brexit and climate change, which the representative constituency system has failed to properly address.

We have arrived at a point in western democracies where civil disobedience is soon to become the norm. Governmental laws now dictate the fine detail of our lives. My own campaign against the absurd TV Licence Fee tax is a microcosm of the police state in which we now live.

As an outsider to Extinction Rebellion, I have been observing the power of UK state come down on the demonstrations with growing unease. To those praising the crackdown I would say this: wait until you have an issue that you really care about because that same power being used against protestors now will be used against YOU.

In the spectrum of possibilities from climate change, an environmental catastrophe with horrendous loss of life is certainly a possibility. By the time most people realise we have a significant climate problem on our hands it will be too late. ■

# How far will you go to #TELLTHETRUTH?



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



DELIVERY TO ISLE OF WIGHT



CLARE HARD AT WORK



DISTRIBUTING PAPERS



KEITH & ALEX, CAMBRIDGE



AT THE INTL REBELLION IN TRAFALGAR SQUARE



BUSY AT THE OFFICE

# 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.

■ Many thanks for the copy of The Hourglass newspaper. We don't usually get "radical" communications through our letter boxes in Knowle Solihull, just advertising from care homes and financial advisors. Please include information on how we can pay for our future issues of Hourglass news sheet, as at last someone's imparting information of real importance!

In this area people care very little about climate change, the heating is always on and the children get lifts to school in Range Rovers, so please lets spread the message in affluent areas and ask for contributions, we owe it to our future generations!

After reading this issue I turned off 19 lights and turned down the heating thermostat!

Andrew Barclay  
Solihull

■ Flying must be rationed

George Monbiot's proposal for a "frequent-flyer levy" (History will be kind to Heathrow climate protesters who stop us flying, 4 September) might have been radical 15 years ago, but is inadequate now considering the extreme lateness of the hour.

We need measures

that produce huge and immediate and progressive reductions in aviation emissions, based on a philosophy that all sections of society must contribute to achieving those reductions. Money means little to rich people, so allowing them to pay to continue flying is inequitable but more importantly impractical.

Dave Bradney  
Ceredigion

■ In the 1960s, Richard Buckminster Fuller was warning of the very events that we see today worldwide. The very title of one of his many books 'Operating Manual for Spaceship Earth' (1968) indicates how forward-thinking he was.

A very few of us have been warning of the global trends for some years, but treated by most in the same contempt as shown today by President Trump and his acolytes. It has only been subsequent to the evident climatic changes which have wrought havoc to some that governments are beginning to wake up to their impending fate.

No matter what

measures are taken, a time will come when much of central London is flooded. With each updating of climatic prediction, this time is getting closer. What measures have yet been considered to be taken when central parts of London become uninhabitable?

Extinction Rebellion is a very honourable cause, but I fear that, because of the complaisance of governments world-wide, the increase in global warming can only be slowed, not reversed as some seem to imagine. And even that can only happen if drastic measures are taken today, not in 25 years time.

Frank  
Surrey

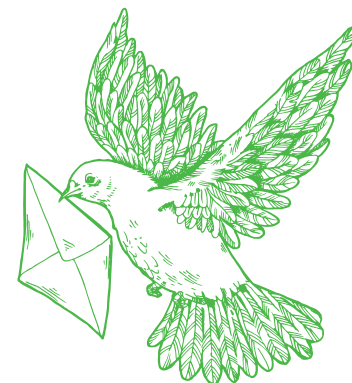
■ This is a picture of my 61 year old dad reading The Hourglass newspaper, which I was given at Cambridge train station. This is important because my dad doesn't have Facebook, Instagram, etc... He doesn't consume news via any means except the TV and the newspaper. You don't normally hear about the climate crisis, especially reported truthfully, on any of these things. So a giant THANK YOU to those people who are making this newspaper happen. You're reaching people who otherwise wouldn't be reached.

Bianca  
UK

**WRITE TO US**

Have your letter featured in the next issue

Send letters to:  
Hourglass@rebellion.earth

because that means so much more methane. There are so many cows because people like to eat lots of meat. So what I'm trying to say is that we need to stop eating meat.

■ My name is Daisy Sage. I'm 10 years old and I drew this picture myself. It's about cows farting and when they fart the methane gas goes into the atmosphere. It's making the climate hotter which is the problem. There are so many cows in the world which is bad

Daisy  
Age 10



Thanks Daisy, we loved it!



Photo | Bianca

Illustration | Matt Zeg



# Snapped Ankles

**HARE & HOUNDS, KINGS HEATH**

by **GARY LLOYD**

I'm fifty-four years old, 6'3, and have the grace and poise of an arthritic hippopotamus, so I am not renowned for my dancing skills. It takes a lot to get me to shake my stuff without inhibition. Lots of beer can sometimes do it, or, apparently, a live performance from London post-punk ravers 'Snapped Ankles'.

“ **The noise they make is punctuated with bleeps and theremin 'whoops', and the vocals, with lyrics of a dystopian future and the evils of capitalism** ”

wearing antler horn head-dresses, and looking like Mad Max versions of neolithic shaman, they set to weaving a hypnotic beat with bass, drums, vintage electronics, and home-made synths made out of logs that they hit with enthusiasm.

Frontman Austin (they use surnames only) frequently goes wandering in the crowd, and pretty soon the whole venue is bopping dementedly. The noise they make is punctuated with bleeps and theremin 'whoops', and the vocals, with lyrics of a dystopian future and the evils of capitalism, are put through effects pedals as well.

They sound like 'DEVO' at their most synth-laden and weird, but this is a very English version of musical eccentricity. It is a joy to behold, and the rapidly building buzz around this band is well justified. Go and check them out. If they can make me dance, they can make anyone dance! ■



Snapped Ankles: Post-Punk Ravers



Pere Ubu  
neither jazz,  
prog or punk

# PERE UBU

**BUSH HALL, LONDON**

by **GARY LLOYD**

Pere Ubu, the avant-garde band founded in Cleveland, Ohio in 1975 from the ashes of proto-punk group Rocket From The Tombs, launched their latest album 'The Long Goodbye' at the beautiful art-deco 'Bush Hall' in West London on Friday 13th September.

Led by vocalist and sole surviving founder member David Thomas, the band have been pushing musical boundaries for forty-five years, and this latest album is possibly their most ambitious and challenging yet. David Thomas suffered serious health issues recently and was hospitalised during the US leg of touring their last album. His band mates were told that he was not likely to recover, but survive he did, and he immediately went into his studio to write and create 'The Long Goodbye', a record designed to tie up all the loose ends of Pere Ubu from the previous five decades, and to

'close a chapter' for the band.

Thomas himself is clearly not a well man. While his brain and voice are still pin-sharp, and his banter between songs is still as darkly funny as ever, his body is clearly failing him. He is wheeled into the venue in a chair, has to be carried onto stage, and performs seated. You have to give him credit for still putting on such a powerful performance while clearly in such perilous physical shape.

The band for this short tour is a stripped down version of Pere Ubu, similar to the 'moon unit' that often road tests new material, and consists of David Thomas on vocals; Keith Molinare on guitar, Gagarin on synths and electronics, and (returning to the band after 30 years) Chris Cutler on drums. The band perform 'The Long Goodbye' album in full, although not in order, and it is a powerful piece of work, veering considerably more towards experimental electronica than Ubu's usual output.

The music is almost

impossible to classify. It's neither jazz, prog or punk, but a unique melding of all three; sitting as a backdrop to the lyrical stories that Thomas weaves about the journey to Bay City. It's often an uncomfortable listen, but one that offers much reward if you allow it space to grow, and Thomas is still a consummate lyricist. Thomas jokes darkly about Pere Ubu's



protocol for his own death, and promises that 'The Long Goodbye' is not the end of the road for Pere Ubu, but the end of 'a' road. Let's hope that there is more mileage in this most unconventional of bands still to come. ■



# THE CLIMATE IS A-CHANGIN'

Lyrics by **ROB GOODWIN**

People of Earth cease what you're doing  
And know that the oceans around us are growing  
The icecaps are melting, the glaciers are going  
Our leaders keep on ignoring  
The gravest threat the world's ever known  
For the climate is a-changin'.

Giant corporations that profit from oil  
Your fossil fuel boom you continue to sell  
It's the last chance soon to be saved by the bell  
Can you not hear, it tolling?  
If you don't stop soon, we'll all go to hell  
For the climate is a-changin'.

Yes Senators, Governments please heed our call  
Don't stand in denial don't block up the hall  
For we'll all get burned by deniers who've stalled  
There's a wildfire outside, and it's ragin'.  
It'll burn down your houses and blow down your walls  
For the climate is a-changin'.

Come mothers and fathers throughout the land  
Your sons and your daughters need more than a hand  
The future is threatening our families and friends  
This greenhouse is rapidly heating, got to change our  
bad habits

It's the final demand  
For the climate is a-changin'.

While the White House is fiddling  
Rome burns to the ground  
They're completely denying this threat most profound  
We have to keep fossil fuel buried in the ground  
Or our chances are, rapidly fading  
World leaders that fail us, will be cursed and forever  
damned  
For the climate is a changin'.

Greta we love you, our girl of the hour  
In this leadership vacuum, you speak truth to power  
The climate change battle must be fought now  
A trillion trees must be planted  
To soak up the carbon we've all burned 'til now  
For the climate is a changin'. ■





**HELP**

