

# THE HOURGLASS

## WHY I CHOSE TO GO TO PRISON

Mother and musician explains why she is one of over 1,100 people arrested so far for taking action... And is doing it again



Page 7

## IN CONVERSATION WITH RAY MEARS

INTERVIEW Page 6 >>>



# I'M SORRY: WE WERE WRONG

Top climate scientist apologises for inaction on climate and ecological crisis

The central square in the village of Datchet in Berkshire, following severe storms

More and more climate scientists are warning that the impacts of climate crisis are developing faster than research predicted. Earlier this year, the UK's Met Office waded into the debate after revising data to show that previous estimates of how much the oceans have warmed have been too low.

This was a warning too far for Dr Wolfgang Knorr, a German-born climate scientist with a career spanning almost three decades, including five years co-leading a major climate research programme at The University of Bristol.

Dr Knorr broke his silence to mark today's launch of a new Extinction Rebellion-supported initiative called TruthTeller.Life, an online gateway inviting people like Dr Knorr to tell their truth either in person, or anonymously, by safely disclosing unpublished information.

"Repeated and unchanged scientific warnings

by **MARC LOPATIN & ZION LIGHTS**

actually contributed to a spectacular failure to act. This failure means that the 2015 Paris Agreement to keep temperature rise below safe levels is an empty promise. I believe most climate scientists would privately admit that, because the agreement is based on the unreal assumption that we can engineer ourselves out of the mess we've created. This simply isn't true."

The scientist also singled out the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC), which peer reviews climate science research on behalf of United Nations member countries. "Climate change won't be the sole, and maybe not even the main cause, but it could well be the trigger. The risk of catastrophic climate change will not go away even if the world stopped emitting carbon tomorrow. We urgently need to accept this and adapt our way of life, because we can't exclude societal collapse on a massive scale within the

next few decades."

The book *Discerning Experts*, published earlier this year, which takes an in-depth look at environmental assessments and how scientists make judgements, supports the argument that the tendency has been to underestimate climate impact.

"We found little reason to doubt the results of scientific assessments, overall. We found no evidence of fraud, malfeasance or deliberate deception or manipulation. Nor did we find any reason to doubt that scientific assessments accurately reflect the views of their expert communities. But we did find that scientists tend to underestimate the severity of threats and the rapidity with which they might unfold," they recently told *Scientific American*. This means

despite the brilliant work climate scientists are doing in raising the alarm about the climate, the picture may be worse than we think.

Dr Knorr, who's scientific specialism is in Earth system modelling, recalls his own denial about the future: "Each time I filled out a grant application to fund more research, a part of me thought 'what's the point? What difference is another scientific paper going to make?' But I didn't do anything about it. I was trying to build my career and get by in life. Climate scientists are no different from anybody else. I didn't want to admit this for many years but now I want to apologise for my part in this."

Dr Knorr is clear about what needs to happen to generate a more urgent and global response. "We need a sober, grown-up look at all the

CONTINUED ON PAGE 2 >>>

» CONTINUED FROM FRONT PAGE

risks climate change entails. No doomsaying or preaching in order to convince others, but no shying away from speaking about things that are painful.

"For example, the UK imports half of all its food and that most supermarket food is supplied on a just-in-time basis. Can you imagine what would happen if extreme weather struck in several locations in the world at once, triggering

**'Climate scientists are no different from anybody else. I didn't want to admit this for many years but now I want to apologise for my part in this'**

an international crisis around agriculture and migration? What chance UK supermarkets could stock their shelves amidst such



Dr Knorr speaks out

shock and disruption? Is the UK government even aware - let alone prepared - for this type of scenario? It sounds inconceivable, but we're all vulnerable now."

The Hourglass asked Dr Knorr what ordinary people can do to ensure that the necessary steps are taken to adapt to this worsening crisis. He responded, "I'm not an activist by nature and I'm reluctant to take this step, but I believe it is necessary. I think I've realised that we're all activists now, and that each one of us

needs to decide how to act. For those of us fortunate to have worked, or still work, in organisations that know about the future risks we face, I urge you to come forward and tell your truth. It'll change your life."

TruthTeller.Life is an online gateway inviting people working in the global economy to tell their truth. To learn more about anonymously disclosing unpublished information about the climate and ecological emergency, please visit [www.truthteller.life](http://www.truthteller.life)

# LETTER FROM THE EDITORS



discussing such measures. Without this platform, how will we cope with the growing strain of climate reality?

The crisis we are facing is unlike any war this country has ever seen. We are heading towards mass species extinction - a million species could be wiped out by 2100. Mass displacement of people is occurring globally: climate refugees will soon be the new norm. In our lifetimes we may be facing food security issues, increasing weather extremes, and potential mass warfare over limited resources.

The future for our children, for younger generations, looks bleak. We are facing death and suffering on an unprecedented scale and so far we have no strategy to counter it. We must bring emissions down immediately to stop the planet from warming so quickly. We must protect lands, people, and all plant and animal species. We must salvage what we can and rebuild with solutions that don't continue to harm our planet.

**This is an emergency**, and we need to start acting like it. What if news reporting reflected the fact that the climate and ecological crisis is real?

The Hourglass newspaper is not a special edition of 'climate reporting', but a paper that aims to tell the truth of what is happening to our planet. If we look closely at the discussions taking place in the Cabinet and on the news, climate and ecological breakdown are on the backseat - when they're passengers at all.

That means that it's difficult to keep the crisis on the agenda. In World War Two, newspapers rallied to engage people, to help them to adapt to living in difficult circumstances, and to keep them safe and informed. 'War reporting' became the norm. When food was rationed, newspapers provided nutritious recipes for families who were living on limited ingredients.

Could we be doing this with rationing personal carbon emissions? We don't know, because there is not yet a mainstream platform for

It's our choice. Extinction, or Rebellion? ■

*The Editorial Team*  
of The Hourglass



Illustration | Darren Cullen

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# ONE MILLION SPECIES THREATENED WITH EXTINCTION



by ANONYMOUS

A new report released earlier this year has found that the current decline of nature is 'unprecedented' and that extinction rates are 'accelerating', putting one million species at risk. The landmark new report from the Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services (IPBES) warns that grave impacts on people around

the world are now likely.

"The health of ecosystems on which we and all other species depend is deteriorating more rapidly than ever. We are eroding the very foundations of our economies, livelihoods, food security, health and quality of life worldwide" says IPBES Chair, Sir Robert Watson.

This is the most comprehensive report of its kind ever completed, and the conclusions are stark. That one million animal and plant species are now threatened with extinction in the next few decades.

To increase the policy-relevance of the Report, the assessment's authors have ranked, for the first time at this scale and based on a thorough analysis of the available evidence, the five direct drivers of change in nature with the largest relative global impacts so far. These culprits are, in descending order: (1) changes in land and sea use; (2) direct exploitation of organisms; (3) climate change; (4) pollution and (5) invasive alien species.

The report also found that current global goals and targets for conserving and sustaining nature will not be met at current rates of action and that much wider, ambitious and transformative action will be needed across politics, the economy, society and the technology sector. "It is not too late to make a difference, but only if we start now at every level from local to global," Sir Robert Watson said.

Through 'transformative change', nature can still be conserved, restored and used... By transformative change, we mean a fundamental, system-wide reorganization across technological, economic and social factors, including paradigms, goals and values. ■

**extinction rebellion**  
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# GLASGOW TO HOST UN CLIMATE SUMMIT IN 2020

by ANONYMOUS

The United Kingdom is reportedly the favourite to host the next Climate Summit (following the 2019 meeting in Chile) in a partnership bid with Italy that will see Glasgow visited by politicians, scientists and policy makers from around the world. The Cabinet Office confirmed in early August that the Scottish Events Campus in Glasgow will host the COP26 Meeting in 2020.

Clare Perry, the UK nominee for president of COP26 (and former energy minister) says that Glasgow is "the right choice to showcase the UK's commitment to the environment".

Around 30,000 delegates from around the world are expected to attend the two week summit including 200 world



leaders. Lang Banks, director at WWF Scotland, said: "This will be a vital milestone in the global response to the growing climate crisis. The fossil fuel era began in Scotland and in 2020 the global community must come to

Glasgow and say that this will be the last fossil fuel generation and that we are ready to take on the climate and nature emergencies we face." ■

# IN OTHER NEWS



by RHYS HANDLEY

While the planet continues to cook, the British government is creating plenty of drama to distract the public with. Brexit is still the big topic for politicians, and a report from the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) finds no-deal will slice UK economic growth by 3%.

The latest Crime Survey found class A drug use among 16-24-year-olds to be at a 16-year high, suggesting that some of the younger generation are looking for ways to distract themselves from the coming chaos too.

There may be hope on the horizon: more young people than ever from disadvantaged backgrounds have won university

places in the UK this year - 25,910 in total. This means 20.4% of freshers come from the lowest areas of participation in the country, which may lead to a shakeup among the intellectual elite in the next few years.

A newspaper called The Hourglass has been launched by the group Extinction Rebellion in a remarkable bid to tell the truth about the state of the planet. Critics are already scoffing at the move as 'rainbows and unicorns' idealism.

## WHO SAID IT?

“Every day [the media] tells us that issues of mind-numbing irrelevance are more important than the collapse of our life support systems”

“It is life itself—human life, the innumerable species of our planet—that we wantonly destroy. It is life itself that we must battle to preserve”



# LEAKED DRAFT OF UN CLIMATE REPORT WARNS OF DISASTER

by **AARON THIERRY**

More than a quarter of a billion people could be displaced by rising seas this century due to human-caused climate change, according to a new draft copy of the latest Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) report seen by the French news agency AFP.

The 900 page 'Special Report on the Ocean and Cryosphere in a Changing Climate' (SROCC) outlines a litany of climate disasters that await humanity if greenhouse gas emissions are not dramatically reduced. These include a 100 to 1,000 fold increase in flood damages over this century, annual "extreme sea level events" for coastal megacities around the world by 2050, and the water supplies of billions being impacted by melting glaciers.

Among the many cities threatened with inundation are Shanghai, Ningbo, Taizhou in China, Mumbai in India, and New York and Miami in the United States. The latest IPCC report comes hot on the heels of the Special Report on Climate Change and Land published last month which found very high risks of permafrost degradation and food system instability even at 2C of global warming.

IPCC Co-Chair Priyadarshi Shukla warned that "Food security will be increasingly affected by future climate change through yield

declines – especially in the tropics – increased prices, reduced nutrient quality, and supply chain disruptions".

An IPCC meeting currently taking place in Monaco to finalise the latest SROCC report coincides with the UN's Climate Action Summit in New York, where nations of the world are being asked to substantially increase their pledges on emissions reductions. The UN Secretary General António Guterres's message to the delegates is stark: "What I want is to have the whole society putting pressure on governments to understand they need to run faster. Because we are losing the race."

Controversially, the UN Secretary General has taken the dramatic step of not allowing many leading economies to speak at the summit due to their continued support for the coal industry and lack of ambition in their climate planning. Among those excluded are the United States, Australia, Japan, South Korea, and South Africa as well as Brazil and Saudi Arabia who have both recently criticised the Paris Accord.

This decision to snub those countries seen to be delaying action was praised on Twitter by climate writer David Roberts, who wrote: "In the endlessly formal, scrupulously polite world of diplomacy, this is a big deal: the UN general-secretary is publicly shaming countries that fund new coal plants." ■

## WHO SAID IT? ANSWERS

- 1 George Monbiot
- 2 Margaret Thatcher

## WHAT IF WE COULD AIR CONDITION THE PLANET USING HURRICANE POWER?



WITH THE FORCE AND FREQUENCY OF HURRICANES EXPECTED TO ESCALATE OVER THE COMING YEARS, AT HELL WE'RE DEVELOPING TECHNOLOGY TO HARNESS THIS ENERGY IN ORDER TO POWER THE GROWING DEMAND FOR AIR CONDITIONING WORLDWIDE.

NOT ONLY WILL THIS KEEP OUR INTERIOR ENVIRONMENTS COOL AND COMFORTABLE, BUT THE OIL AND GAS EMISSIONS WE CONTINUE TO GENERATE WILL INCREASE THE INTENSITY AND REGULARITY OF ENERGY-RICH HURRICANES FOR CENTURIES TO COME.



Illustration: Darren Cullen

# LIFE ON THE FRONTLINE: An Indigenous perspective on the climate crisis from the Peruvian Amazon

by **ADRIAN HARRIS**

Western visitors often speak of the wonders of the Peruvian rainforest. The Peruvian jungle is one of the most biologically diverse places on the planet, and the Amazon has more plant species than anywhere on Earth. It's home to millions of different species, many of which are still unrecorded by science.

I recently spoke to Don Francisco Montes Shuna, a Peruvian shaman, and ecologist Nowa Maya Salkantay. Don Francisco is a member of the Capanahua, an Indigenous tribe that live in the heart of the Amazonian rainforest. Nowa, a close neighbour, is an activist and artist.

I asked them what the indigenous people of the Amazon think about the climate crisis. Nowa's message is simple: "If the rainforest dies, we die".

That's a horrifying thought, as 23 million people live in the Amazon.



The trees of the rainforest make up over half of the planet's remaining rainforest and store vast amounts of CO2. Tropical deforestation releases that CO2 into the atmosphere and makes up for about 10 percent of global climate change. We're losing an acre of tropical

forest every second. Take just a moment to digest that number. And that's another acre gone. Why is the rainforest being cut down at such a terrifying rate?

Nowa puts it very bluntly: "The beef industry is killing the planet. The rainforest is being cut down like grass. It's for both palm oil and beef, but mostly for beef."

Cutting down ancient rainforest to create pasture for beef cattle is by far the biggest problem and leads to the destruction of 2.71 million hectares of tropical forest every year. Amongst commodities, palm oil is the second biggest contributor

to climate change after beef and it's used in so many products that it's hard to avoid.

Oil extraction is also a major problem. "Petroleum companies come here and exploit the people. These companies come here and make a bloody – and I mean bloody – mess."

Oil extraction also brings deforestation, pollution, disease and death to the indigenous people. Large areas of the Peruvian rainforest have been contaminated by oil and gas drilling. Although tribal people are fighting back, the odds are against them: several activists have been

murdered over the last few years, and the violence is increasing. So what can we in the West do?

"Unite with people who are planting trees", Nowa tells me.

The message from the Indigenous people of the Amazon is clear: "We have a choice. Make the right choice," Don Francisco tells me. Before it is too late. ■

Don Francisco Montes Shuna and Nowa Maya Salkantay are Indigenous people living in the Amazonian rainforest.

# Unprecedented Arctic fires spark NASA investigation

by **ANONYMOUS**

As large wildfires in the Arctic circle continue beyond a third, unprecedented month, NASA has begun a study into how the fires impact around the globe.

They will investigate why the boreal forest and tundra fires have become more frequent and powerful as well as what that means for climate forecasting, ecosystems and human health.

"Fires are a natural part of the ecosystem, but what we're seeing is an accelerated fire cycle: we are getting more frequent and severe fires

and larger burned areas," said Liz Hoy, a boreal fire researcher at NASA's Goddard Space Flight Center in Greenbelt, Maryland.

The wildfires have been burning since June and have seen around 4.3 million hectares of taiga forest destroyed in that period, adding to the 13.1 million hectares lost since the start of the year, according to Greenpeace.

Mark Parrington, a scientist from the Copernicus Atmosphere Monitoring Service, states: "We haven't seen this before. The fire intensity is still well above average." The ABoVE project has also been formed by Professor Tatiana Loboda from the University

of Maryland, College park.

"In the past 20 years we've had the three largest fire seasons on record for Alaska and that's happening at the same time that the population is growing. The more people



are spread out, the more likelihood someone is going to be affected somewhere in any given year," Loboda said. The project will look into the health impacts of the fires on the rising population of the region.

While the impact on the local ecology, wildlife and human populations is cause for concern, the fires also could increase the drier conditions that fuelled them. The fires have released vast amounts of carbon dioxide into the atmosphere, 50

megatons in June and 79 megatons in July.

While climate change itself does not cause the fires, the hotter, drier conditions are one of its impacts and in a region where tundra stores huge amounts of carbon for the planet, growing fires could lead to even worse conditions over time.

NASA hopes the use of field and lab work, airborne campaigns and satellites will provide some answers about the current fires and their potential future impacts. ■

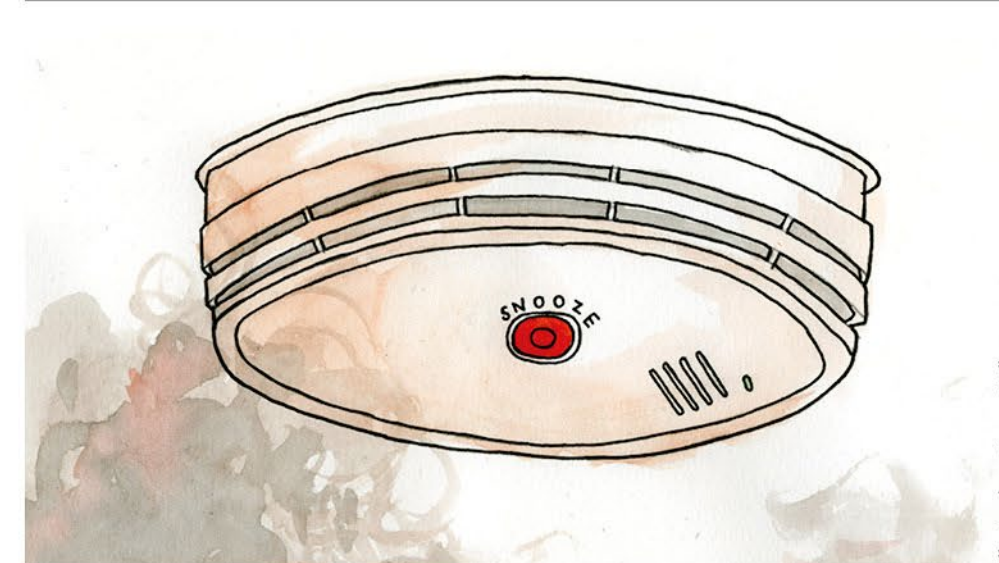


Illustration: Darren Cullen



# In conversation with Ray Mears

by SUE WHEAT

"If we run out of clean air and water we're up a gumtree, aren't we?" Such a comment is Ray Mears at his straight-talking best. The man so many of us have seen on our TV screens over the last 25 years hacking through bushland in one country, tracking animals in another, lighting fires with an enviable ease from bits of scrub absolutely everywhere, showing us how to survive in remote natural areas, and always, chatting as he deftly goes.

Growing up on the North Downs was his spur. "I wanted to know how our ancestors lived in my own country and nobody knew - that led me to the trees and plants. And the more you learn the more you realise you realise you don't know, so it's a self-sustaining interest." He describes his work simply in terms of being 'a teacher'.

Even if you've seen only a few seconds of Ray Mears on one of his bushcraft TV shows, you'll get the gist that he is a man who loves life, nature and sharing knowledge. Now 55, Ray still has the same boyish curiosity and obsessive enthusiasm of his childhood self. He tells me, "Being out in wild places, even when the weather's bad, it's good for you - it makes your shoulders broader, makes you think more deeply and feel a spiritual connection to the land in a very special way."

He must have come across so many examples of the climate and ecological crisis first hand, I suggest. "Yes, I've been aware of climate change for a long while and evidence is stacking up



against us as a species. We must act swiftly if we're to achieve something."

It's the ecological part of the climate and ecological emergency that is at the forefront of Ray's work. For the UK, he's interested in the concept of 'rewilding' but is not in favour of reintroducing predators like lynx or bear, as "they'd just be hated and end up dying of lead-poisoning. We need to learn to live with the hen harrier and golden eagle first, which we struggle to do." Ray is also a big fan of "the unsung champions of the countryside" - British farmers. "They work so hard to do the right thing. A farmer near me whose family has been farming for 500 years turned organic and last year there were suddenly skylarks over their fields."

Fertile soil is one of humanity's and the planet's often forgotten saviours, he points out: "The next generation are going to discover the most important thing of all is soil and how we manage it." Allowing land to lie fallow (have

a rest from planting) and realising the powers of nature to regenerate is the ecological repair strategy he suggests.

"What we should be doing is equipping people with the skills to notice changes to nature, to ask the right questions, like 'why don't the salmon spawn that live in the Thames?' and then act. Lots of little actions are going to be the solution to the big problem, he says.

"The TV is full of programmes like '100 most deadly things' and this creates fear, which creates hatred, and hatred leads to destruction. If you really want to persuade people to do something you need to show them a benefit rather than tell them what the problem is... We've been making wildlife films for 100 years now and yet we're still entering the period of greatest mass extinction in history."

So it is forward-thinking, rather than survival skills, that is the most life-saving skill we must all adopt, he insists - about nature, the world and each other. "My concern is the way we're

talking about the issues has the risk of creating a social depression, and a sense of guilt, both of which are not a healthy psyche for the future generation."

When I ask Ray for his top three things that everyone should do, spending time around a campfire is number one. "Everyone should feel the magic of sitting around a fire, communicating with people different to yourself. If you've never met a hunter, sit

around a fire with a hunter. If you're not into farming, sit and talk to a farmer. It's very easy to hang out with people who spew out the same propaganda as one's self and that doesn't get us anywhere - that creates division - and what we need is unity."

His number two top tip is to drink clear water from a natural spring. "Some people have only experienced bottled water, which I find terrifying. It's the elemental things that are the magic of life."

And number three is to learn one tree and the uses it brings. "We live in a world where people are selfish - they cut trees down because they want to see a view, because they haven't learned the value of having a forest. People talk about saving the planet - I don't believe that for a second. The planet is not under threat, it's the thin veneer of life on the surface of it that is." ■



Green America CLIMATE VICTORY GARDENS



Ray Mears spending time in nature

**"We've been making wildlife films for 100 years now and yet we're still entering the period of greatest mass extinction in history"**

# Comment is Priceless



NATALIE FEE

## THE PLASTIC BREAKDOWN

*'It's time to broaden our perspective on plastic pollution and shift the focus away from its effects towards its cause'*

Plastic manufacturing is estimated to use eight percent of yearly global oil production. The plastic produced from this, or our lack of effective waste management systems, has been enough to wreak utter destruction on marine ecosystems, killing hundreds of thousands of marine mammals, entangling countless others and poisoning our food chain.

Despite this catastrophe, plastic's share of global oil use is set to triple by 2050, increasing greenhouse gas emissions from petrochemicals by 30 per cent and doubling plastic pollution in our oceans. If the plastic industry has its way, rising plastic production will account for 15 per cent of global greenhouse gas emissions by 2050. The industry push is powerful - currently

over US\$200 billion is being invested in factories, pipelines, and other infrastructure in the US that will rely on shale gas (from fracking) to supply feedstock to the plastic industry. The need for us to push back is real, and it's urgent.

Plastic bag bans all around the world, the new EU single-use plastics directive, bans on straws, polystyrene, even the humble plastic cotton bud, are a red flag to investors that the plastic industry is at risk - that may be the boom they were hoping to make a buck out of is as dead in the water as the marine life they might one day have gone snorkelling with, had they not ruined it. It's time to broaden our perspective on plastic pollution and shift the focus away from its effects towards its cause. We also need to be talking about climate breakdown. Plastic pollution is a symptom not just of a broken waste system, but of a broken society, and it's in all of our interests to fix it as soon as is humanly possible. ■

## WHY I WENT TO PRISON FOR EXTINCTION REBELLION



CATHY EASTBURN

On April 17th I climbed on top of a stationary DLR train at Canary Wharf station in London. It was the third day of the Extinction Rebellion International Rebellion and myself, Luke and Mark decided to take action. Almost immediately we were headline news around the world. Extinction Rebellion, our three demands, and the climate crisis were on the top of every front page. I saw and heard this change unfold over the days after my action, watching TV in my cell in Bronzefield Prison, a maximum security women's prison in Surrey.

I'm a law-abiding, respectable citizen, a mother of two teenage girls, a professional musician and sound therapist with a busy and successful practice. So why did I do it?

I've been aware of the issues around climate change for more than 30 years and have become increasingly concerned as the decades have slipped by. The penny finally dropped for me late in 2018 when the International Panel on Climate Change released its report saying that we have only 12 years to avert climate catastrophe, and talking of imminent threats. The future of our children and the whole of humanity is in jeopardy. Global

weather systems are breaking down exactly as scientists predicted. The breakdown of social, economic and civic systems can only be a short way behind. When I heard about Extinction Rebellion, I felt a huge sense of relief. Their rationale for disruptive but non-violent direct action seemed sound.

When I was arrested, the hardest thing was having my liberty taken away. It was a powerful, painful, almost physical wrench.

Frankly, I don't want to be doing this. There are things I would far rather be spending my time doing: being with my family, making music with friends, enjoying my garden. But we have run out of time, the planet is burning, all children including my own face an unimaginably brutal future of societal collapse, mass starvation and war. I need to step up. See you on the streets. ■



RUPERT READ

## A REBEL ALLIANCE

When the first International Rebellion took place in mid-April 2019, very few people thought it would succeed, but after almost two weeks of nonviolent direct action (NVDA) and over 1,100 people arrested, an avalanche of change had come.

Mass non-violent direct action works. It's hard for the police to deal with. And, as it goes on, as it refuses to go away, it forces citizens to re-evaluate their beliefs about what's most important. That's exactly what's happened. A sliver of hope at last.

It has been a huge privilege to be part of this new movement, Extinction Rebellion. For the first time in years I feel a growing glimmer of hope for humanity. Finally, we are seeing a

mass mobilisation of people who are willing to stand up for a future for their children and loved ones. We cannot be spectators of this. We need to be part of the change, all of us. We need to rebel against this path to extinction - and the time is NOW.

How do we do it? Telling the truth. Extinction Rebellion's first demand is for the Government to tell the whole truth about the gravity of the



climate and ecological emergency. It is crucial to tell the truth that the current economic and financial system which has brought this about is broken and needs to change. Massive inequality, overconsumption by few and rampant degradation of environment need to end, as must investments in fossilised energy-systems that are killing our children, right now (even if their actual deaths remain years or decades off).

We need to be clear that it is the system (not the individuals staffing it) that is the key factor in the escalating ecological destruction - a system which must be replaced with something massively fairer and more intrinsically caring of humans and our planetary ecosystem. Anyone who was in London in April for

**'We cannot allow the City and the Government to continue to leach and waste money that should be used for an emergency programme'**

our first phase of Rebellion will tell you how amazing it was. Now we have a new and bolder plan: a movement of movements. We are getting contingents of new rebels from movements 'allied' to XR... The peace movement. The social justice movement. A bloc of nursing mothers. Of Buddhists meditating. And more... Call it the rebel alliance...

Political and economic systems are taking us over a cliff-edge: that's intolerable. They must and will change. We cannot allow the City and the Government to continue to leach and waste money that should be used for an emergency programme of transitioning our economy to something that can be ecologically viable. We will not allow them to continue to invest in fossilised energy-systems that are killing our children and killing our fellow beings, right now.

See you on the 7th of October for the next International Rebellion! May the force of peace and truth be with us. ■

# YOUTH VOICE



Age 16  
**MATI WARWICK**

## Fairytales Heroes and Villains

I am 16, autistic, and find that I get great comfort from the world of fantasy. But what is happening now is too outrageous to even fit into one of the stories I love to read.

The current state of our planet and what is happening is appalling. Our new Prime Minister, like many others around the world, is acting as if we weren't under siege from a Climate Crisis. We need politicians to look at their children and grandchildren and think about the

impact that this damage will have on them and their future. Maybe they think that all their money and power will keep them safe - but I have learned that

money is not enough and in reality they will just abuse this power and steal away everyone's futures.

We need clean air, water and food - and we need everyone to have enough. What is it going to take to get world leaders to work together to make our planet safe?

It is as if the most atrocious fairytale villains were running things. Can we take down the villains of this story? I don't know,

but if I don't try and you don't try then nothing will change. We need to stand up to this villain. We all know that villains have never gotten their happy endings and we aren't going to let that start now. Every villain seems to want more until someone smaller than them takes them down. Can we take down the villains of this story? I don't know, but if I don't try and you don't try then nothing will change.

Is Greta the fairytale hero? She is the closest we have to all of the characters like Disney character Mulan, Robin Hood and the many other role models we had growing up. She is someone we can look to and learn from. My friends and I used to talk about growing up and maybe having children. Now we talk about Rebelling. ■



Age 14  
**KEANE HANDLEY**

## Why I decided to act

I was sitting in my Geography classroom writing the title 'What's the big problem with climate change?' Which was what many of us year 9 students were thinking as we were aware of the issue that is talked about a lot - but the scale of it!

As we went through the lesson I began to feel more strongly about the global issue and more than anything; I was angry.

warming escalate. I knew that many in that classroom would forget about it in a week, but I wasn't going to.

Angry that a whole generation had let us down letting the levels of global

Extinction Rebellion had organised over the spring period. Therefore I joined them and my passion for the issue has grown so much that I am looking to set up an environmental committee at my school to raise awareness and encourage change.

I now will urge people to do the same and finish with something that persuaded me: more than 1 million species face extinction and we may soon be one of them - if we don't act! ■

That is why I started to grow my own vegetables, recycle more, look at my carbon footprint - the small things. Then scrolling through social media I saw Havering Rebels which excited me as I had seen what was in my eyes the fantastic protests

More than 1 million species face extinction and we may soon be one of them - if we don't act!



Cartoon | Indiana Rivers



Age 19  
**DAISY WYATT**

## A LETTER TO MY CHILD

To my child I'm so sorry. I am so sorry I didn't do enough to save you.

I'm sorry that you will never know what our world looked like when it wasn't on fire. You'll never know the beauty we enjoyed at your future's expense. I'm sorry you'll never go on an airplane, and watch the ant-like people from the window and see the clouds in the sky and realise what it means to be humanity. To revel in our brilliant creations, a brilliance that costed us your earth.

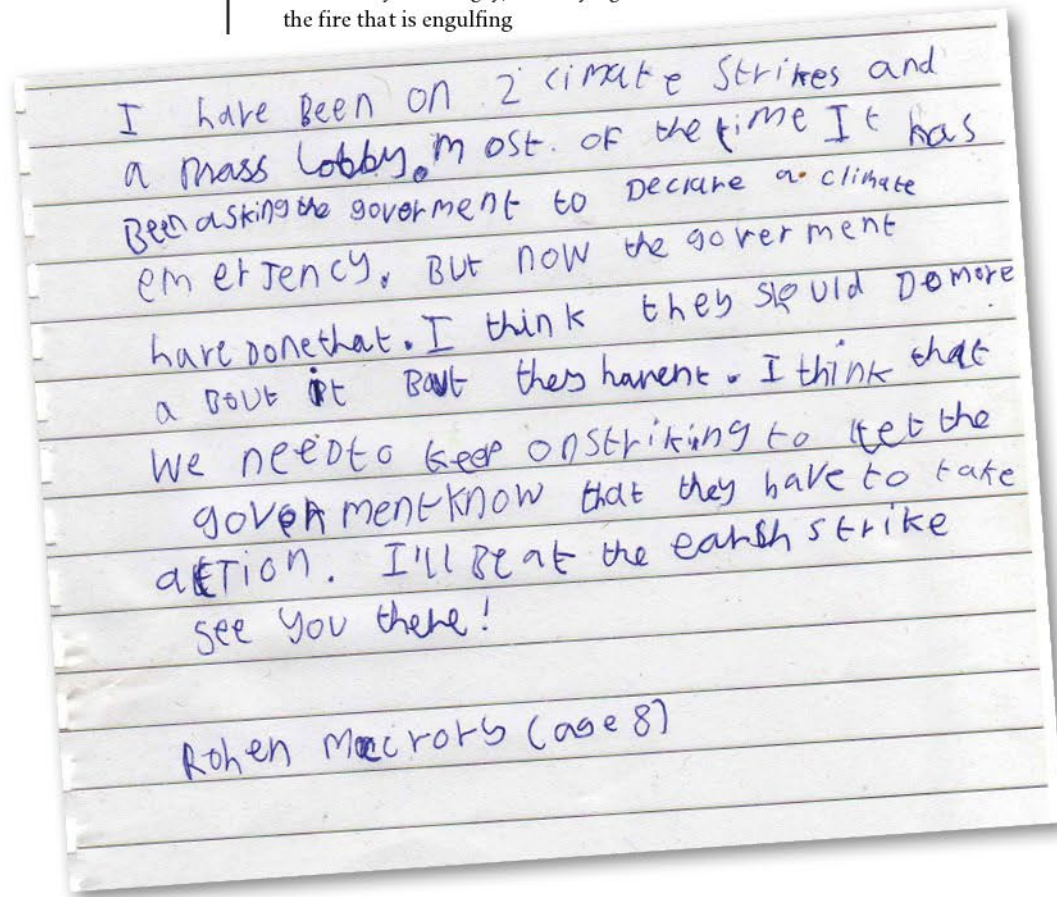
To my child

I'm so sorry. I am so sorry I didn't do enough to save you

I'm sorry I cry so much about your world and what it looks like. You don't understand. This wasn't what it was supposed to be. This is all you know but you deserved the better world I saw. You deserve the earth, my child and all we have to offer you is a self imploding pile of barren dirt. I'm sorry the world is so confusing, that society is so angry, engulfing

your existence is complete, that you live. I will show you all the world that I have available to me. I will walk you through our lush history, I will make your future as bright as I can with what little power I have. I will fill your life with the light and love that the Rebellion has given me. And I pray, to the earth and not god, that you will forgive us. ■

Incinerator staring it in the face and vowing not to take any more innocent lives with them. I hope you know light in your dying world. I hope I as your parent can bring that. It is my duty to make sure that



Rohan Macrotos (age 8)

# THE VALUE OF NATURE CONNECTEDNESS

by **DR ADRIAN HARRIS**

What if I told you that a simple lifestyle change could make you happier, healthier and smarter? Dozens of research projects have shown that spending time in nature does that and more.

Most of us have experienced the healing power of a wander in the park, a walk in the woods or along the seashore, but researchers are

finding that nature connection can also increase happiness, create a greater sense of calm, reduce stress, enhance creativity and deepen our compassion.

A study for the mental health charity MIND compared the impact of a nature walk with one though a shopping centre. Almost everyone who went on the nature walk noticed an improvement in their self-esteem. On the flip

side, 44% of those who visited the shopping centre experienced a reduction in self-esteem. So much for retail therapy! Overall, the research found those who engaged in outdoor activities reported less anger, less tension and an improvement in overall mood.

A growing body of evidence shows that nature can improve the wellbeing of entire populations. A study of 20,000 UK residents found that

people were happier in natural environments than in urban ones. You don't have to live in the countryside: just having trees in your local area can make a difference. Professor Miles Richardson, Head of Psychology at Derby University, sums it up pretty well: 'there's no wellbeing without nature's wellbeing'. ■

## REBUILDING COMMUNITIES: CHANGE IS AROUND THE CORNER



Jamie Kelsey-Fry writes about the path to reconnection | Image Adobe Stock

by **JAMIE KELSEY-FRY**

If by some miracle there is a future for humanity, the history books will record our time as a chapter of shame that children of the future will be dumbstruck by. How could we have witnessed so much destruction and misery while doing nothing about it?

The biggest question they will want to be answered will be why we turned a corner. What was it? Not a leader or ideology. No one great movement with stunning rhetoric. No ingenious invention that suddenly banished the darkness.

It was you. It was me. Finding agency through listening to each other. Away from the clash of social media or TV commentators, the hypnotism of well woven speeches, we found ourselves, through desperation, turning to all we had left: each other. Gathering in town squares and community halls in hundreds, then thousands. Remembering that our differences were nothing in respect to our similarities, a notion that had uncannily been made nearly invisible for hundreds of years.

For all the power and money and war and science that had mesmerised us and bent us into submission for a

thousand years, we remembered that we knew nothing at all. Nothing of what it was to be spinning gently on a pale blue dot in an infinite universe, no inkling of the why and wherefore of human life, no clue what to do with this sublime affair. Our death, present from our first breath, had somehow been kept out of sight.

But when silence fell all around, our lives were ours again and we could see a sky and stars and sun that had hung patiently for us to come back into being. We looked into the eyes of those we had come to hate and felt sorrow for not having recognised that we had come from the same fears.

We looked to our left and saw the exquisite filigree of biodiversity. We remembered the roots that entwined us. We looked to our right and saw the happenstance of geography, that we could have been born anywhere and so all were our brothers or sisters. We realised that all is the responsibility of all, responsibility born in assembly. As life itself was swept away by our slumber, we chose with our every breath to remain awake. ■

## FINDING 'MORAL MUSCLE' IN PRECARIOUS TIMES

It seems that, as nations of people, we have lost our moorings on a stable bedrock of knowing the true value of things. This is where faith communities can have relevance to help society face the social, ecological and political crises. Like a nurse helping a patient to walk again, they can help society experience, flex and exercise its atrophied 'moral muscle', to help it discover its capacities and responsibilities towards our collective civic conscience. 'Responsibility' can also mean an

increased capacity to respond to unpredictable situations ('responsibility'). We normally associate democracy with its outward form, its structures of governance, rules and political parties. However, in his book 'The American Soul: Rediscovering the Wisdom of the Founders', Professor Jacob Needleman makes the case that the US founders of democracy reveal through their writing a search for a democracy in two directions: "toward the external good of a life of liberty and equality... and at the same time inwardly toward the search for inner development, the

by **MOTHIUR RAHMAN**

life of conscience... that gives life its true meaning."

Without the development of this 'second democracy' in parallel, the American forefathers believed that outward democracy would eventually degrade and destroy itself. Are we, in present times, watching their predictions become true?

We have a choice. We are facing a degradation of not only the institutions of democracy but a degradation of the very meaning of the word democracy. We can strengthen our moral muscle to help us find grounding in a disorientating world. ■



Illustration | Naomi McLeod



CLIMATE CRISIS - YOUR QUESTIONS AND THOUGHTS  
THIS WEEK EDITED BY THE (FAKE) NEWS REPORTER JONATHAN PIE

Hi Readers,

It's great to be asked to answer your banal and frankly depressingly stupid questions about the end of all life on Earth.

This week's theme:  
"hypocrisy!"

■ Emma Thompson was great in *Love Actually*...but I hate her now coz she took a plane to draw attention to the world coming to an end. She's a hypocrite. Why would you pretend to care about saving the planet and then fly half way across the globe to come to a loony leftie love-in for hippies. She's only jumping on the bandwagon to sell more tickets for her films. My question is, is it still Ok to watch *Love Actually* knowing she's an evil human being? Oh and I liked her in *Remains of the Day* too.

“Excellent point! Let's weigh it up. Was there an inherent hypocrisy in Emma Thompson getting a plane over here to show her support for something that she felt was important? Yes there was. Could she have come on a sail boat? Yes, she could have.

Would that have made any difference? Yes! She would have been two weeks late for a protest which, by the way, through huge media attention, and thanks in part to her support, managed to almost single-handedly get the climate crisis on the

agenda.

The idea that anyone would attempt to hijack the climate crisis for their own personal gain is disgusting.

In fact, I discuss this very matter at great length in my up-coming national tour, Jonathan Pie: **FAKE NEWS**. Tickets are available to buy from [jonathanpie.com](http://jonathanpie.com) Personally I thought Nanny McPhee was her greatest role.”

■ I read recently that in the Amazon rainforest, an area the size of Wales is chopped down each year. Is this true? And if so why don't they just chop down Wales?

“Yep - very funny mate. Actually the Amazon is disappearing at its fastest rate in history.”

■ I'm sick to death of David bloody Attenborough. Our Planet? Bollocks. It's so predictable. Every scene starts with some lovely little animals having a lovely old time. Jumping. Playing. Doing sex eyes towards the camera (little sluts) and towards the end, David makes some sly comment about how they are all dying and it's our fault. Bullshit! I'm sorry David, your schtick is getting old mate. I want PROOF of these ridiculous statements you keep making. \*50 years

ago, there were well over twenty thousand Amur Leopards. Today, there are a mere fifteen." How do you know that David? They might be all hiding. Maybe they don't like the cameras. Maybe they like their privacy. Give me the proof right now or I'm upping my plastic consumption. David, stop lying!

“ Couldn't agree more. I'm more of a Bake Off man myself.”

■ I read recently that in the Amazon rainforest an area the size of a football pitch is burned every hour. Is this true? And if so - why not just burn down Old Trafford instead?

“f\*\*\* off mate.”

■ It was quite interesting to see how the various newspapers reported the Extinction Rebellion takeover of London earlier in the year. Some were quite nice about it and some were quite nasty.

I am really scared of forming my own opinion in case it ends up being unpopular. Which newspaper should I believe?

“ The tabloids obviously went with their predictable climate change denying "they're all either middle class hypocrites or a bunch of hippies in need of a bath and proper job" nonsense. They also went on to claim that rising sea levels has nothing to do with melting ice caps and has in fact been attributed to the tears of Remainers being washed out to sea.

Then, on the other end of the political spectrum, was the liberal left newspaper's predictable response to the Extinction Rebellion, which was to point out that there were too many white people at the protest. All papers are in fact doing exactly the same thing. They want you to concentrate on who is protesting and not what the protest is actually about.

I believe that everyone who says they are worried about climate

change should be means tested. If they earn over £30k then they need to keep quiet. Perhaps we could try a pilot scheme where only people on Jobseekers Allowance are allowed to get involved in climate action.”

■ I read recently that in the Amazon rain forest an area the size of...

“ Seriously - f\*\*\* off.”

■ Dear Jonathan Pie, what do you think the future holds?

“ Right now it looks like the whole Planet is going to turn out like one big Thomas Hardy novel. Turgid and Depressing. Everyone dies at the end, but not in a good way. It's never a knife fight or a hang gliding accident. It's always consumption or cancer or being crushed by a horse or something.

That's what we're facing right now. A turgid death, full of famine and war...and disease...and being crushed by horses.

There are two ways to reverse this trend.

Give up capitalism...Or...Kill about a third of the human population. I haven't done any research on that - but it sounds about right. Just the annoying ones.”

■ The Extinction Rebellion are all a bunch of hypocrites. They just stop people going to work by blocking the roads which causes even more pollution with all the traffic chaos they cause. And then they have the nerve to publish this newspaper. Made out of paper! Which is made out of trees! HYPOCRITES!

“ Yep. I agree. Wholeheartedly. They are hypocrites. We all are. It is undeniable. Accept it. You are a hypocrite if you try and do something about the climate crisis because your existence contributes



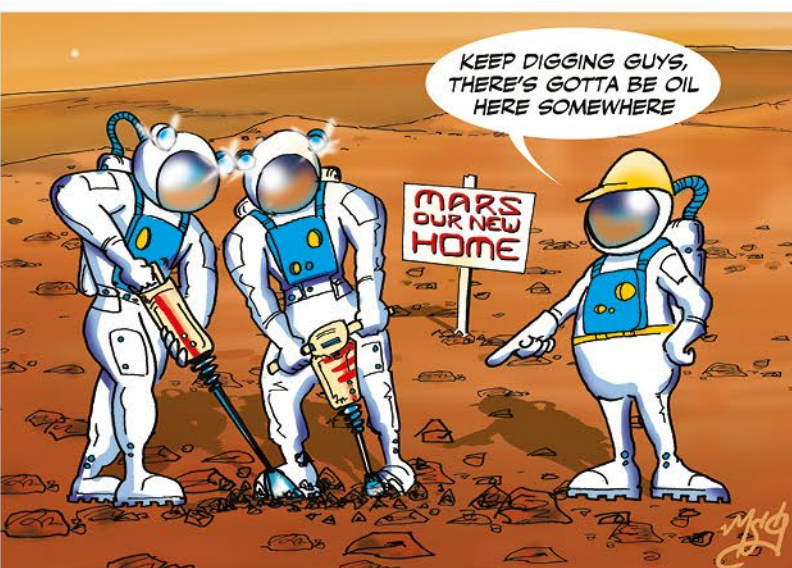
to it. So why bother doing anything at all?

[Note from Editor: This newspaper is printed on recycled paper.]

[Note back from Jonathan Pie: Whatever!]

■ How do you save the world?

“ Well there are two ways. You have a choice. You can either go around pointing out each other's hypocrisies to hide your own inaction by saying things like "Oh she's a vegetarian but she wears leather shoes". Or you can be a hypocrite. My advice? Don't be one of the contrary little idiots. Be a decent human being and do what you can.”



**WRITE TO US**

Have your letters featured in our next issue

Send real letters to:  
Hourglass@rebellion earth

Kate Tempest

ESQUIRES IN BEDFORD

by GARY LLOYD

I've been to thousands of gigs over the last forty years or so, but the number of artists who have moved me to tears with the power of their performance can be counted on one hand. The late and much missed Mark Linkous of Sparklehorse did it; as did Katiejane Garside as part of Ruby Throat; PJ Harvey on her 'Let England Shake' tour; and Mark Lanegan with Isabelle Campbell.

To that list I can now add Kate Tempest, surely the most important poet of her generation. For Kate is a poet, just a poet who performs her pieces in a live music context with a hip-hop backing. But it is the words that matter, and what words. Words of power, subtlety, wisdom, and maturity beyond her years. Words that make you think about what really matters, words that make you question authority, convention, societal norms, and even love itself. She was so good that it was half way through the

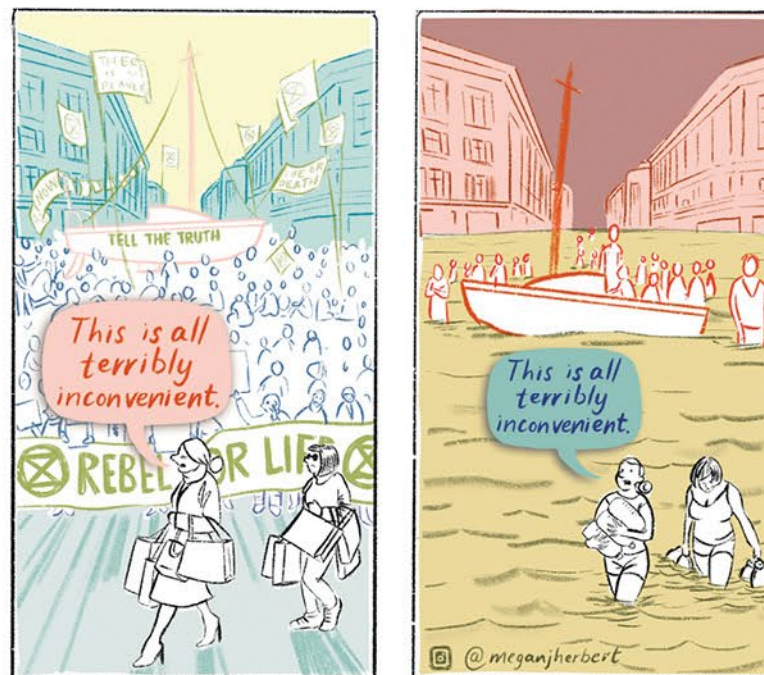


Kate Tempest: A captivating poet

gig before I realised that I hadn't yet taken a single photo because I was so into the performance.

This was a low-key club date at the tiny 'Esquires' venue in Bedford to warm up for summer festival dates, including a high-profile Glastonbury appearance, and much of the material played tonight was from her yet-to-be-released fourth album 'The book of traps and lessons'. The new songs have a minimalist synth backing, provided by a single musician, and this feels deliberate; to let the words stand front and centre, and they gain even more power from that. ■

“ Words of power, subtlety, wisdom, and maturity beyond her years. Words that make you think about what really matters, words that make you question authority ”



One way or another, change is coming.



British Sea Power  
pastoral indie rock  
heroes

BRITISH SEA POWER

CRAUFURD ARMS IN MILTON KEYNES

by GARY LLOYD

British Sea Power playing at a small pub venue in an obscure corner of Milton Keynes may seem fairly eccentric, but BSP are a band with a history of wilful eccentricity. They have been playing their unique brand of pastoral indie rock music for almost twenty years now, and have, in the past, played at a seaside cafe, Mersey Ferry, and fell-side pubs. People (music journalists) are fond of writing them off as history-obsessed bird-watching bookish post-punk journeymen in charity shop military uniforms. The music site 'The Quietus' famously said that "they are a band so unique that if they didn't exist nobody would ever have thought to invent them", and it is reported that the band seriously considered calling their fourth album 'Now That's What I Call World War 1 Joy Division'. This is obviously a band with a sharp sense of self-deprecation and a python-esque sense of humour.

BSP arrive on the foliage decorated stage at the surprisingly early time

of 8:30pm, and launch into a set that mixes old favourites with no less than five new tunes from their yet-to-be-announced new album. They display their politics on

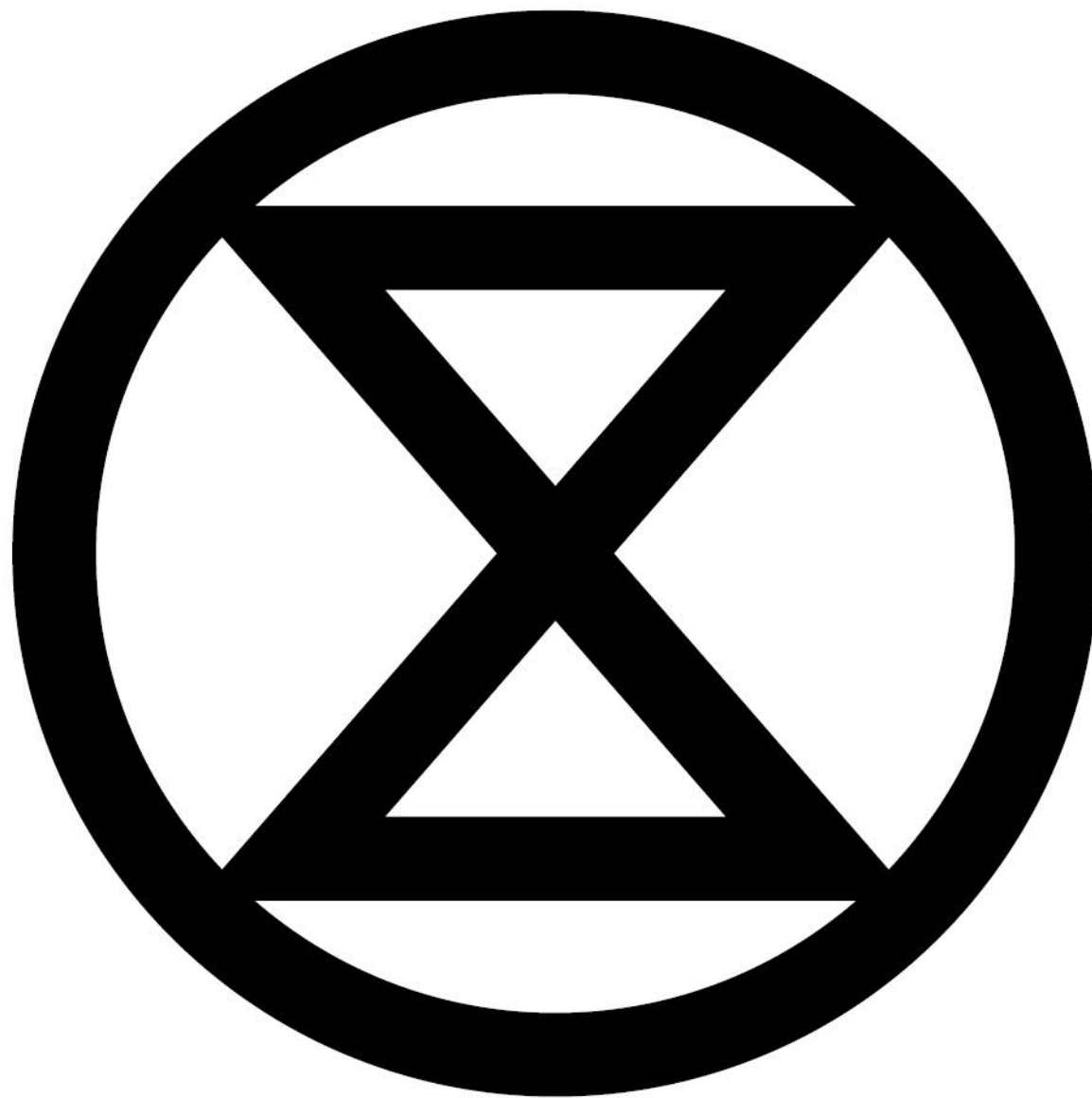
their sleeves, with singer 'Yan' playing a guitar decorated with a 'Free Tibet' sticker, and their biggest hit 'Waving Flags' being, in the words of the band, 'A celebration of humanity and people's similarities and differences, an ode to everyone getting along and having some fun and being nice to one another.' And alcohol.

BSP clearly put a lot into their live performance. They look like a traditional band, with guitars, bass, drums, and keyboards, but they also use brass (a cornet), and a viola - although not tonight; apparently string player Abi "has better things to do". BSP stand out by playing anthemic indie rock, with soaring choruses, and lyrics that show wit and intelligence.

What other band do you know that has a song about the Larson ice shelf in Antarctica? Towards the end of the set the boisterous crowd are joined by an eight foot dancing

polar bear; singer Yan hurls foliage into the throng, and offers himself up to be lifted above the crowd's heads and carried around the room, still singing. It is an act of trust between artist and audience that illustrates the bond between them. The set builds to a crescendo with a triumphant triplet of 'Carrion', 'Waving Flags' and the soaring instrumental 'The Great Skua'. There is no encore. Nothing could possibly follow that. ■





**INTERNATIONAL  
REBELLION**

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