



The Children and Helms of China and Britain



# Saving Our Home on The Blue Planet

With Gran Flad, Gran Chi, Walter, Winnie, the Hawaiian Bell Boat  
"Spirit of China and the Climate Revolution"



and

## A Chinese Paddle for Life

David W. Train  
Former Olympic Canoe Coach



**“The greatest gift that all of us could give to the world would be a way to make life safer and better for all our own great grandchildren and all the great grandchildren on our planet. I was delighted to sign the Paddle for Life for President Xi and would ask you to send it to him, together with this book, as soon as possible”**

**Gran Flad. The Gran of Fladbury. Page 35.**



**“I will be delighted to send this story and a Paddle for Life as a gift to President Xi. At a time of more and more instability in the world, it will give all the children on our beloved planet hope for a better and more secure future. The whole of humanity will win.”**

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## You Tube Films

**Google. “TED. com Lord Stern.”**

**It spells out the problem for humanity and how we must act quickly to bring all the world on board.**

**Google “TED.com James Hansen. Speaking Truth to Power.”**

**“Paddle for Life....David Train.”**

**It spells out a solution, through sport and culture, of how to get all the world on board and working together to tackle the problem.**

**“Bell Boat...Keep Paddling “  
How Scotland could use the ideas.**

**“Greening the Vale”**

**What is happening in the Vale of Evesham.**



**Lord Stern with Paddle for Life**

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## The Problems of the Blue Planet

Far away in a universe called Asunder lived a flying tortoise called *Gran Main*.

Gran Main was the great grandmother of all Earth, which from far away looked like a blue globe and which Gran Main called the Blue Planet. Life on the Blue Planet only existed because of the water. So, she was called *Main* because, since ancient times, the word for all the oceans and seas of the world had been *Main*.

She was a very special tortoise, with swallow-like wings. Whenever she was needed, she could fly swiftly to the Blue Planet.

Gran Main was very, very wise. She had a blue head, blue body, and a pure white bell-shaped shell with her name on it in blue. Her wings were pure white. She had brown eyes.

Gran Main's purpose was to care for all life on the Blue Planet and to do that she had to care for all the precious water. She cared for the streams, the rivers, the seas, the clouds and the ice and snow. And she made sure that there was always the right amount of each so that life could go on.

Humans were very clever and over many centuries had created their home in the atmosphere of the Blue Planet. She tried to see that the humans of the Blue Planet always looked after it and kept the air, the rivers and the seas clean, so that all the animals and plants could grow together in peace.

However, Gran Main noticed from far, far away that more and more people were spreading over the Blue Planet. The humans were taking more and more space for themselves, and the other animals and plants, with less space to live, were dying.

As more and more humans spread across the Blue Planet, they made more and more rubbish. They were making the rivers, the sea and the air dirty. The people threw rubbish into the rivers and the sea, and they made the air dirty with the gases from their factories and cars.

Some of the gases were like a blanket around the Blue Planet and they trapped in the heat from the Sun. The Blue Planet was slowly getting warmer and the ice

was melting, changing the balance between the ice, the sea water, the river water and the clouds. And, if that balance was wrong then life would be very different on the Blue Planet. The sea levels would rise and there would be less fresh water to drink and less land to grow food on.

The humans of the Blue Planet had problems and with less water to drink and less land to grow food on, the problems were becoming greater and greater. Instead of working together to solve these problems, the people of the Blue Planet were always going to war, fighting and bombing each other to decide who knew the best way to do things. Somehow the humans had to learn how to work together to recreate the world they lived in.

As the years went by, Gran Main started to worry more and more. She worried so much that she could hardly sleep at night.

She knew, of course, that there would always be problems to solve and that as they were solved then new problems would arise to be solved and that, when they were solved, there would again be new problems to solve. Problems would go on for ever and ever, but there had to be a better way for the people to solve them than fighting and bombing each other. And, with the Blue Planet getting hotter and hotter, as the climate changed, as the sea levels rose and drinking water became scarcer and scarcer, it was becoming more and more important to find a way.

When Gran Main was awake she thought about how she could bring the people of the Blue Planet together to solve their problems. How could she make the people of the Blue Planet think about their great problems, like climate change, clean energy and water shortage, and set out to solve them without fighting each other and killing each other with bombs all the time?

Then one day Gran Main had an idea. What the humans needed was a revolution in the way that they lived - a "Climate Revolution". However, the weapons that they needed had to be very different from those used in wars. They had to be weapons that would inspire all the children and leaders on the Blue Planet to take part. To inspire them to take part in the "Climate Revolution" she would need to make and send "soft power" weapons to the people of the Blue Planet.

## **An Idea**

**Away in Asunder, Gran Main set to work and made a very special tortoise and a very special rabbit. They were her first ‘soft power’ weapons for the people of the Blue Planet.**

**Then she flew to the Blue Planet with the very special tortoise and the very special rabbit. On the way there she stopped on the Moon and they looked at the Blue Planet. From the Moon the Blue Planet looked like a very fragile beautiful blue globe set against the blackness of space.**

**The three sat on the Moon.**

**“What’s the Blue Planet made of?” asked the tortoise.**

**Gran Main spoke. “Soon you will land on an island on the Blue Planet and there you will find out what it is made of, but the most important thing of all is water, for without water there would be no life at all. The Blue Planet looks blue from the Moon because of all that wonderful water. There is now a great problem with the precious water on Earth and that is why I am taking you there.**

**“One hundred and fifty years ago, on an island called Britain, the engineers discovered how to power machines with coal. They made many things for the world, they built ships and railways and sent them around the world. They started the “Industrial Revolution” in Europe and were followed by America. Together, Britain Europe and America are called the West.**

**“Over the years things became better and better for the people of the West, but as they burned the coal it gave off a gas that stayed high in the atmosphere for hundreds of years. The gases act like a blanket around the planet and the planet slowly became warmer.**

**“One day China and the East will have their Industrial Revolution and the planet will get even hotter as they burn more and more coal. Industry takes more of the drinking water needed for humans, animals and plants to survive and, if it gets too hot, humans and many animals will not be able to live. We must find a way to help before the humans destroy the wonderful home they have created. It will be a long journey of discovery.**

**“The British people started the Industrial Revolution and the problem of putting the gases into the atmosphere. They, above all others in the world, have a duty to find a way to solve the problem and share the ideas with the rest of the world. You must help them find a way. What you must do is to start another revolution - the “Climate Revolution”.**

**“I am going to take you to a place in Britain, where the first passenger railway, powered by coal was started. It’s called Stockton, in the Tees Valley and is a great symbol of the Industrial Revolution. It’s a place on its own, a land “asunder”, which means “apart from”, within Britain. From there, I hope that you will learn about life in the West and the world so that we can find a way for the world to solve this great problem and then we will be able to share it with China and the East when they have their Industrial Revolution.**

**Gran Main picked up the tortoise and the rabbit and swooped down to the Blue Planet. They landed in the backyard of a small house in Stockton in the Tees Valley, close to where the first passenger railway started. The man and woman who owned the house with the backyard were called George and Mary. They were very surprised when they discovered the tortoise and the rabbit in their shed.**

**The tortoise was very unusual. He was the colours of the Olympic rings. He had a bell-shaped shell, which was red, yellow and blue, a green body and head, and he had blue eyes. On the yellow of his shell and around it were the letters ‘WW’ in black. He had no wings because he was made by Gran Main to move slowly around the Blue Planet, so that he would slowly discover all about it.**

**The rabbit was also very unusual and, like the tortoise was also the colours of the Olympic rings. She had a bell-shaped body which was red, yellow and blue. Her legs and head were green, and she had a white tail and brown eyes. On the yellow of her body and around it were the letters ‘WW’ in black. Her ears were red on the outside and yellow on the inside. They pointed to the sky like a V for *Victory* sign.**

**“What shall we call them?” asked George. “They both have WW on them, so their names must start with W. Let’s call the tortoise Walter and the rabbit we shall call Winnie,” said Mary.**

**George and Mary took them into their home, where they fostered Walter and Winnie until they were old enough to look after themselves on the Blue Planet.**

## War and Peace

When Walter and Winnie were very young and still living with George and Mary, Britain went to war with Germany, a great country in the middle of Europe. Britain was joined by all the countries of the Commonwealth. Britain was led by a man called Winston Churchill - some called him Winnie. His mother was American, his father English. Wherever Churchill went he held two fingers in the air making a V for Victory, like that made by Winnie's ears. With his sign, Churchill inspired all the people to "work together" to win.

George had to go away to fight. Walter and Winnie did not see him for six long years. Mary looked after Walter and Winnie, together with her children. It was very hard for her. There was little food. One night, the German planes dropped bombs on Stockton. Some of their friends, in the house next door to where they lived, were killed. Germany attacked Russia and, in the East, Japan attacked China and like the people of Britain and Russia, the people of China suffered bombing and many people were killed. It was a time of world terror which lived with Walter and Winnie for the rest of their lives.

The people of Russia joined the war and later the United States of America, to help Britain, the Commonwealth and China. It was terrible for all the people, but especially for the people of Russia and China where many millions of people were killed.

Eventually the war stopped and George came home. He became a chimney sweep. At that time there were many chimneys to clean because all the homes were heated with coal fires. They made the air outside dirty and the chimneys very dirty. George always took away every speck of soot and left the houses so clean that he was called *Mr Spotless*. It meant that he always had many sacks of soot to take to the rubbish tip.

Walter and Winnie often helped George by taking the soot to the rubbish tip for him. The rubbish tip was a long way from where they lived, and there was a great hill to climb on the way. The only way to get to the top was by working together. So, as they climbed the hill, they shouted: 'Together! Together! Together!'

Winnie loved her home in Stockton in the Tees Valley and throughout her long life only once travelled outside of the island. She kept a lovely home for all her

children, all her grandchildren, and all her great grandchildren, so that they would come to visit her. All the human children loved her, and she cared for them all. When the children felt unhappy because they hadn't enough money to buy the things they wanted, she told them, "It's nice to buy things but you do not need to buy things to be happy. Happiness is inside you, and you get it by helping others. If you do your best to help others each day, you will always be happy."

Walter loved his home in Stockton in the Tees Valley. He also loved sport, especially water sports. Walter loved making things and doing things. He made canoes and kayaks from wood and canvas and he took part in paddle sport.

It was in the Tees Valley, in the land asunder, that Winnie and Walter started to learn the good and bad things about life on the Blue Planet. But Walter was a restless tortoise and wanted to see the world and learn all about it. He moved all around England and finally to Fladbury, a small village, in the middle of Britain.

## **The Bell Boat**

Fladbury lies on the banks of the River Avon between Evesham and Pershore, near to the birthplace of the famous poet and playwright, William Shakespeare. Like Winnie, Walter had children, grandchildren and great grandchildren. When the children felt unhappy because they had not enough money to buy the things they wanted, Walter told them: "It's nice to buy things but you do not need to buy things to be happy. Happiness is inside you, and you get more and more of it by helping others. If you do your best to help others each day you will always be happy. And you also get more and more happiness by making things, doing things, and thinking."

There, in Fladbury on the Avon, Walter met Mr Good, a teacher, who asked Walter to help him with the children. "If the leaders and adults don't inspire and help the children to do good things," said Mr Good, "then our children get into trouble and start destroying things and other people lead them into taking drugs. If you could inspire and help them to paddle, I would be very happy. It will really help our society."

Walter wanted to help society in Fladbury, in Britain and across the globe. He knew that if the problems of the world were to be solved in a peaceful way then all the people of the Blue Planet had to work together. He often wondered how to

do it. Then, by chance, the people of China sent three dragon boats to Britain to race in London, the capital city. With the dragon boats came the story of how dragon boat racing had started over two thousand years before, to celebrate the life of Qu Yuan, who, like Shakespeare in Britain, was China's greatest poet.

Walter realised that there was a way to help people from the East and West, to work together to solve the great problems of Earth. All he had to do was to make a special boat that everyone in the world would be happy to go in and, in time, the boats and the story of working together would spread around the Blue Planet. He made a special team boat for the children so that they would learn how to work together.

The boat had a twin hull and was very stable, like the outrigger canoes of Hawaii, so that no-one was frightened to go on board. Walter called it a "bell boat".\* When he and Mr Good took the children out on the boats they asked Walter why he had called it a bell boat. Walter always replied, "I called it a bell boat so that you would ask me why. It is of course the shape of my shell."

Then Walter explained why his shape was very important. It was the very first step in understanding statistics, which was very important in understanding science, engineering and technology. Mr Good then explained to the children that Walter's shape meant that they were all very different and special and that they could all use their different talents to take part in solving the great problem of global warming, the climate change that went with it and the problems of water shortages. The children had taken their first step in maths and that made Walter feel very happy, for they had taken a great step in making the Blue Planet fit for them to live in.

The first boat was called the "Spirit of Fladbury and the Climate Revolution" on the bow and on the stern it was called the "Spirit of Mr Good and the Climate Revolution".

The bell boats had three flagpoles. On the bow flagpole were two flags. The top flag on the bow flag staff represented the letter "W" and as a single flag meant, "Urgent Medical Attention Needed". The lower flag represented the letter "E" and as a single flag meant "Changing Course to Starboard".

\* See chapters in Walter's Festivals. [www.mainacademy.com](http://www.mainacademy.com)

The rear flag was ensign flag of Britain. The centre flag was that of the United Nations.

Thus, the signalling flags spelt out the message that “WE, the British crew of the “Spirit of Fladbury and the Climate Revolution”, recognising that our Home on the Blue Planet is in need of urgent medical attention, are joining the “Climate Revolution”, changing course to avoid destroying our home on the Blue Planet, and inspiring the rest of the world to join us.”

The bell boats were Walter’s schools on the water and, because they were safe for people of all ages, everyone could go on them. They used them to hold a regatta which they called the Fladbury-Main Regatta for Our Home on the Blue Planet. The regatta brought people together, every year and those who took part were reminded how, by working together, the people of the Blue Planet could solve their problems in peace.

## **A Paddle for Life**

One evening, when Walter was watching TV, he saw the Speaker of the British Parliament telling a story to children. The Parliament is called the “Mother of Parliaments” because it is the oldest in the world. In it, the members sit on benches facing each other and on the carpet separating the benches are two red lines.

The Speaker explained to the children that the lines were two sword lengths apart and were first put there many years ago when the members of parliament carried swords with them. They had a rule that in debate they could not cross the red line. It was a rule to stop them pulling out their swords and killing each other.

As Walter listened to the Speaker, he realised that he could create a story for the children using a sword and shield. So he made a wooden sword and shield for the children and then made a paddle by turning the shield upside down, joining it to the sword, and cutting off the sword handle. He called it a “Paddle for Life”. Walter made all the paddles the shape of the Chinese dragon boat paddle because the idea of the bell boat came from the Chinese dragon boat. They were made from Baltic Birch plywood and Russian pine.

Walter asked the children to make paddles and then drew designs on them. Their parents and leaders of the community signed the children's paddles, which meant that everyone in the community had a chance to take part. Wood contains carbon and, when trees grow, they take carbon dioxide, the gas causing global warming, out of the atmosphere. The children pledged to keep their paddles for life and planted trees to replace, twice over, the wood they had used. The children had taken their first step in saving the atmosphere, their home on the Blue Planet.

It was very important that the leaders of Britain supported what the children were doing, so Walter asked the prime minister, the Speaker of the House of Commons, their member of parliament and many other leaders to sign a paddle for life to be used as the perpetual trophy for the Fladbury-Main Regatta for Our Home on the Blue Planet. They were all delighted to take part.

So now the children had a 'school on the water', the bell boat, through which they had taken the first step in learning about statistics and they had a paddle for life which was their first step in solving the problem of global climate change. They went on many voyages with Walter and Mr Good and as they did they learned more and more about life and how to make their home on the Blue Planet a better place for all life. Sometimes, they took their parents and leaders of the community with them to share with them what they were learning. They learned together.

Walter, Mr Good and the children even made a large Chinese paddle for life. It was three metres high. They attached to it, two small signalling flags and two large flags, one for another nation and one the Ensign for Britain. The first of the small flags was for the letter 'W' and also meant 'Urgent Medical Attention Needed'. The second small flag was for the letter 'E' and meant 'Changing Course to Starboard'. On the large paddle it said 'Saving Our Home the Blue Planet with a Paddle for Life'.

They used the large Chinese dragon boat paddle at the start of their voyages and races and took it to the highest peaks of Britain to signal to all the people that 'WE' have an urgent problem and must change our ways and that Britain, inspired by a story from China, have a way of bringing all on board to solve the problem, with a "Paddle for Life".

## Walter's School

Walter and Mr Good often took the leaders, the teachers, the parents and the children on voyages on the river on the bell boats, their school on the water. As they paddled, the people often saw the rubbish that they made floating down the river and getting caught in the trees. As they were in team boats, they talked about the problems together, and then decided to clean up the river and the river banks.

There was a great landfill site near to the Avon which they could see as they went to the river. They called it 'Rubbish Mountain' and it grew bigger and bigger each day, so all the people knew about the great problem caused by making more and more rubbish, because they saw it every day.

Out on the bell boat, the leaders, the children, the parents and the teachers talked about how to make less rubbish. Slowly they recycled more and more of their rubbish and less and less went on to Rubbish Mountain. To remind them of the "climate revolution" and to celebrate what they had done in it, each year they held their Main Regattas for Our Home on the Blue Planet. They called them the Main Regattas for Blue Planet because of the importance of the Main - the oceans and seas of the Blue Planet.

Walter also trained the children in the village to become very fit themselves, by bell boating, running, cycling, swimming, kayaking and canoeing, and they became so good that some of them went to the Olympic Games. His favourite saying was, "Well Done!" The children became happier and happier as they made their paddles for life, went out in the bell boat and took part in sport. Because the children did so well, Walter became an Olympic coach for canoe racing and travelled the world with his paddlers. He went to Olympics after Olympics, to Los Angeles, Seoul, Barcelona and Atlanta and his paddlers and coaches went on to take part in Sydney, Athens, Beijing, London and Rio De Janeiro.

Walter was very happy taking the young people to the Olympics, but he was even happier when he took people paddling in his bell boats with their paddle for life. It was the first step in going to the Olympic heights. It was the first step in going to the heights of Science, Technology, Engineering and Maths. And, the paddle for life was the first step in solving the problem of global warming and climate change. The Olympics were about stopping war and bringing the world together in peace. Some day he would tell that story to the children.

## The Olympics Sport and Peace

On a summer day, out on a voyage, the children asked Walter to tell them the story about how the Olympics had started. Walter was delighted.

“In Ancient Greece, the philosophers with wisdom invented the Olympic Games to stop the young warriors going to war,” said Walter. “The Games lasted for hundreds of years, before an evil king brought them to an end. He was a man who had to win at everything and, if anyone beat him at the Olympics, he had them killed. Soon nobody would compete against him.”

“What a silly man,” said Mr Good. “The main purpose in sport is to train and for everyone to take part. Then everyone becomes fit and healthy and everyone is a winner. All those who compete against you should be your best friends, for they help you, by competing against you, to go faster, jump higher, and get stronger.”

“I think that too,” said Walter. “Over a hundred years ago, in a small town in the middle of Britain, called Much Wenlock, near to where the first iron bridge in the world was built, a man called Dr Brookes thought the same. He believed that, to stop young men fighting in wars, they had to be given something else to do. He believed in training for life - education - rather than wars, to make the world a better place.

“Dr Brookes knew all about the Ancient Olympics and decided to start them once more. He invented the Much Wenlock Olympics, and one day the Frenchman Baron de Coubertin visited the games and was inspired by Dr Brookes. Baron de Coubertin went back to Paris and then organised the first Modern Olympics in Athens.

“The Olympics were first held in London in 1908. At the London Olympics, Baron de Coubertin made a famous speech, in which he used the words of an American pastor, *‘The most important thing in the Olympic Games is not winning but taking part.’* Today, one hundred years later, that is the lasting memory of those London 1908 Olympics. The buildings that were used are all gone but de Coubertin’s story lives on, still trying to get a message to the world about working together to solve its problems in peace.

**“People from across the world are brought together in one city for the Olympics. They have been happening for over a hundred years. Eight thousand young men and women come together every four years to compete, but still the wars continue. Dr Brookes and Baron de Coubertin had a good idea but now, learning from the Olympics and the last one hundred years, I think that we can build on the Olympic idea and do a little better for the 21st century, and that is what we have been working on in Britain for many years.**

**“Our athletes improve over the years with better ways of training. We must learn from them and continually improve the ways we manage ourselves on the Blue Planet. I think that we need to make it possible for many, many more people from across the world to *Take Part*, so that whenever they solve their problems they not only think of themselves but think about all the people of the world.”**

**“How do we DO IT?” asked the children.**

**“That’s easy,” said Walter. “ We can do it with our Main Regattas for Our Home on the Blue Planet, which any village, town, city, can hold, wherever there is water, like the Chinese dragon boat festivals, which have been held for over two thousand years in China”**

## **The Main Regattas for Our Home on the Blue Planet**

**“Tell us more about the Main Regattas for Our Home on the Blue Planet,” said the children.**

**“I have called them the “Main Regattas for Our Home on the Blue Planet” so that the humans will realise that it is their home that they are destroying.**

**“The Main Regattas for Our Home on the Blue Planet are different from the Olympics,” said Walter. “They have the same aim of bringing people of the world together to stop wars and solve their problems in a peaceful way but it is something that every village, town and city across the world, wherever there is water, could do every year. They try to do what Dr Brookes and Baron de Coubertin meant the Modern Olympics to do; to stop wars and solve our problems in a better and more peaceful way. But the Main Regattas mean that millions of people across the Blue Planet can take part.**

**The Olympics happen only every four years, which means that all the eyes of the world are on them when they happen. It makes us think about what they are held for. But we need to be working on what it means every day, week, month and year in between the Olympic years. The Olympics and the Main Regattas are different but work together to achieve the same aim, just as all the world has to work together if we are to solve our greatest problems in peace.**

**“The centrepiece of the Olympics is the track, on land, and it is mainly for young men and women. The Main Regattas are different. Life cannot exist without water. It is the most important thing on the Blue Planet, so the centrepiece of the Main Regattas, like the Chinese dragon boat festival, is the water. And, because we now have a boat which ALL can take part in, the Main Regattas are for all, children, parents, grandparents, great grandparents and teachers.**

**“Britain is made up of people from across the world and their families and friends live in every country on the Blue Planet. All we have to do is to hold a regatta for them and the community, where all who take part, make a paddle for life and pledge to keep it for life. They then tell all their family and friends the story of how the people of the world can come together to solve the great problems like water shortage and climate change.**

**“If those family and friends inspire the community in their towns and cities to make their paddles for life and hold a Main Regatta for Our Home on the Blue Planet, the message of how to solve our greatest problem will spread around the world.**

**“People from all over the Blue Planet can make themselves fit and make the Blue Planet fit for them to live in. If towns and cities, throughout the world take part, then soon there will be many millions more people taking part than take part in the Olympics.**

**“It has taken one hundred years to bring together, every four years, eight thousand young people from two hundred and two nations of the world for the Olympics. In China and now across the world millions of people take part in the dragon boat festivals. If, wherever there is a dragon boat festival or other water festival, all the children make a paddle for life and take part in a bell boat regatta, I think that in eight years we could be doing what those who started the Olympics tried to do.**

**“The Olympics have shown the way in the 20th Century, but with our knowledge now we can do much better for the 21st Century. And I am sure that in the 22nd Century someone will think of an even better way. It’s called continual improvement!**

**“I am sure that the paddle for life ideas, the bell boats and the Main Regattas for the Blue Planet will spread around the whole world. It has to, if humans are to survive and live in peace and harmony. In life, often when there is a need, something happens that we have never thought about. It arrives, ‘out of the blue’ to change everything.**

**“The people of the Blue Planet need something new to bring them together to solve their great problems, and you can help. When you make a paddle, go out on a bell or dragon boat, or take part in a regatta all you need to do is to let all your friends across the world know about it using the world wide web and soon you will have given all the world a new way of solving their problems.”**

## **From Asunder**

**From Asunder, Gran Main watched what Walter was doing. She had always hoped that Walter would find a different way of bringing people together to solve their problems. From far away in the universe of Asunder, she saw what was happening in Fladbury and she thought about how she could help make it happen all over the Blue Planet.**

**Gran Main was wise, like those Grans on the Blue Planet who listen to their grandchildren and are always ready to learn, no matter how old they are. Grans have learned of the past through their parents and grandparents and, if they listen, they learn about the future from their children and grandchildren. They are in the middle of life. The good Grans, like Gran Main, care about the past and they care about the future.**

**Gran Main knew many Grans in Asunder and they often talked together about caring for the Blue Planet and helping the people who lived there by bringing them together to solve their problems in a better way. Gran Main called a meeting of all the other Grans in Asunder, for every village, town, city and country on the Blue Planet had a Gran. Gran Main told them what she saw was happening on the Blue Planet.**

**“The West has solved many problems and has made life better for many of its people, through its great industries, fuelled by oil and coal and it is now the richest civilisation on the Blue Planet.**

**“China, India and the East are now following the way of the West with their own Industrial Revolution. As the people live longer and use more and more coal and oil, new problems have arisen. As people make more, and buy more and more, more rubbish is created and more gases from its industries are making the Blue Planet warmer than ever before. The climate is changing, the great oceans of the world are changing, and changing where water falls on the Blue Planet. The sea levels are rising and fresh drinking water is becoming scarcer. It is making it more difficult for humans, animals and plants to live.**

**“Humans have created what they thought was a wonderful home for themselves in the atmosphere of the Blue Planet but it is now going very wrong. We have to inspire the humans to use their cleverness to clean up their world so that it better for them and all other life.**

**“Many years ago I flew Walter and Winnie to the Blue Planet from Asunder, hoping that they would learn about the Blue Planet and its great problems and think of a way to solve them so that the ideas would be ready when China and the East had their Industrial Revolution.**

**“Walter has learned about life on the Blue Planet as he has travelled around the world going to the Olympics. Winnie has learned how to care for the children of the world by looking after the children of the Tees Valley, in Britain.**

**“Learning from the Chinese dragon boat, Walter has invented new bell boats which he uses to bring the leaders, teachers, children, politicians and parents of Britain and their friends from other countries together, to talk about and to solve their problems, especially water shortage and climate change, in a way in which they think about the whole Blue Planet. Winnie has stayed at home and cared for all her children, grandchildren and great grandchildren.**

**“Walter and Winnie have had long lives. They are now wise enough to set out to try and inspire the people of the Blue Planet with their ideas of how to manage themselves in a better way and to make the Blue Planet a better place for all life. I think that I should fly to the Blue Planet to bring Walter and Winnie together again.”**

All the Grans were delighted for they all cared about the Blue Planet.

“We agree,” they all said, “you must fly there straight away”.

Then the Gran of China spoke out. She was called Gran Chi. She had a pure white shell and white swallow shaped wings, a yellow head and a red body. Her eyes were brown and her name was written on her shell in red letters.

“I’m proud that they have used a Chinese story and a Chinese paddle for life to bring all the children of Britain and their friends in the West on board to solve the problems of the world in peace and harmony. That is what China was trying to do by holding the Olympics in Beijing in 2008.

“We must make sure that all the world knows about the Chinese paddle for life, the bell boats, the dragon boats and the Main Regattas for Our Home on the Blue Planet. Now that the Olympic Torch has left Beijing we can give China and the whole world our Chinese paddle for life, so that all can *take part*, as Baron de Coubertin wanted, in solving the world’s problems in peace and harmony. It will become the legacy for all the Olympics in future.”

Gran Main spoke. “It’s very important that we in Britain bring China and the United States, and the world together to solve the problems of climate change. But we have not much time if we are going to save our home the Blue Planet. I think that you, Gran Chi must come with me to help to to the job.

“We must fly to see Walter and Winnie to bring them together again so that they can help and inspire all the people of Britain, China and America to *Take Part* as soon as possible. We must fly to the Blue Planet today.”

So, Gran Main and Gran Chi waved good-bye to the Grans of Asunder and flew off to the Blue Planet and Stockton in the Tees Valley to talk to Winnie.

## **Winnie and Walter: Working Together**

Gran Main and Gran Chi found Winnie lying in a small hollow in the ground near to the banks of the River Tees in Stockton. They flew down and perched on the edge of the hollow. Winnie was most surprised to see them.

**Gran Main told Winnie about the problems facing the people of the Blue Planet and how their job was to care for them, just as Winnie had cared for the people of the Tees Valley. She told Winnie about Walter and how he had been inspired by a story from China to make his bell boats and his Chinese paddle for life. She told her about Walter's travels around the world to the Olympics with the children he had helped and inspired. She asked Winnie to come together with Walter to help the West and the world to take part in the revolution for the survival of the humans on the Blue Planet.**

**Gran Chi spoke to Winnie. "Your ears are very special. They are a sign of victory, like Churchill's two fingers, and we need a sign to say we will have victory over the problems on the Blue Planet when we all 'Work Together!' When people see you on board with Walter they will shout out, 'WE ALL WIN WITH WALTER and WINNIE'."**

**"I would love to help you and to use my ears as a sign for victory," said Winnie. "I will be delighted to meet Walter again. We will work together and bring the West and the East together to make the Blue Planet a better place.**

**"Many of the children I have cared for in the Tees Valley have grown up. I thought that I would not be needed in the future. I was getting tired lying here. Now you have given me a new purpose. My spirit is getting stronger by the minute. Let's GO DO IT!"**

**"Wonderful," said Gran Chi, "We will fly you to Walter straight away."**

**So Gran Chi took Winnie in her arms, and they flew off to meet Walter.**

**In Fladbury, Walter was sitting on a tree stump on the riverbank of Shakespeare's Avon, beside the bell boats, making a paddle for life from the branch of a willow tree. Gran Main, Gran Chi and Winnie landed, 'out of the blue', on the branches of the tree above Walter. Walter was most surprised to see them and was very, very happy to see Winnie again.**

**Gran Main and Gran Chi told Walter that they had brought Winnie to help him to take his bell boats and the Chinese paddle for life ideas all around the West and the East to bring the people together to solve their problems in a better way.**

**Gran Chi talked about the Olympics and the great opportunity that they brought to bring Baron de Coubertin's dream to reality. Walter was delighted**

and they sat together for hours talking about what to do. Then they went to bed and slept, dreaming about the ideas.

## **Gran Am**

The next morning, Gran Main, Gran Chi, Walter and Winnie met to talk about what to do.

“We have watched from Asunder what you have been doing in Britain,” said Gran Main. What we believe we should do is hold Main Regattas for Our Home on the Blue Planet in the United States and China as soon as we can and have a special paddle for life for the United States and China, as the prize for the winner of the Main Boat Race for the Blue Planet, which will be for the children.”

“That’s a brilliant idea,” said Walter. “I will be delighted to make very special paddles for life for the United States and China.”

Gran Main spoke. “Once Walter has made the paddles, we will fly Walter and Winnie across Britain to inspire all her leaders to sign the paddles for the United States and China. I’m sure that they will all be delighted to take part.”

Walter soon made the Chinese paddles for life and Gran Main flew Walter to meet the Prime Minister and many other leaders of Britain. They had all signed the paddle for life for Fladbury and they were all delighted to take part again and sign the paddles for the United States of America and China. With the paddles for life signed by the British leaders Gran Main called Walter, Winnie and Gran Chi together.

“We now have all the things we need to inspire America and China to come on board and work together to solve the great problem of climate change, but we will need the Gran of America, Gran Am, to fly Walter and Winnie to America. We will also need someone to carry on our work in Britain whilst we are away. I will ask Gran Flad, the Gran of Fladbury to help us. I will go back to Asunder and bring them back here.”

So Gran Main flew back to Asunder to bring back Gran Am and Gran Flad to Fladbury.

## The Voyage to America

Soon Gran Main had flown to Asunder and brought Gran Flad, who had the same colouring of Gran Main, and Gran Am, who had a red body and blue head, to meet Winnie Walter and Gran Chi at Fladbury on Shakespeare's Avon. The first thing they did was to go out on in the "Spirit of Fladbury and the Climate Revolution", so that they would all get to know each other. As they paddled together they talked.

"Many people in Britain know about the paddle for life, the bell boats and about all working together to solve the problems of water shortage and climate change," said Gran Main. "But, whatever Britain does, it will have little effect. Without the United States and China taking part the Blue Planet will carry on getting warmer and warmer. We must first try and find a way of inspiring the United States and China to take part."

"That's great," said Gran Am. "I have just been asked to make a speech at Purdue University in Indiana in the Unites States. I will fly Walter and Winnie there and we will speak about how the United States can lead the way for the world to solve the problems caused by climate change. Purdue is a great engineering university and I think that as Walter is an engineer he should speak for us.

Walter was delighted. Purdue University is known as the cradle of astronauts. It is where Neil Armstrong, the first man on the Moon was trained and it is twinned with the great Chinese university of Tsingua in Beijing. Gran Am flew Walter, Winnie, two bell boats and the paddle for life to Purdue University. The students and professors were delighted to take part, but in Indiana there were many people who did not believe that humans were responsible for global warming and the leaders of the university did not wish to offend them, so were not happy to take part. Walter realised that Purdue and Indiana could never lead the way.

However, when Walter spoke at Purdue University, the leader of Winona, in Minnesota, was there and he listened to what Walter was saying. He invited Walter, Winnie and Gran Am to take the bell boats, the paddle for life and the ideas to Winona. They were delighted to do so.

The people of Winona inspired the governor of Minnesota and the US senators of Minnesota to sign their paddle for life. They organised the Winona-Main Regatta for our Home on the Blue Planet Festival and three thousand people went out in the bell boats. They said that they would do so every year.

At first, it seemed that Winona and Minnesota might inspire the rest of America and the world to take part but the more Walter and Winnie learned about the United States the more they realised that Winona and Minnesota would have to have a very hard job to bring it about.

America is the richest country on the Blue Planet and the people have had a good way of life for many years. Many people do not see why they should get involved with the rest of the world. In WW2 America did not join the war until their way of life was threatened by the attack by the Japanese on Pearl Harbour. Only when Russia put Sputnik into space did the Americans see the threat to their way of life and then decide to lead the way into space.

It seemed to Walter and Winnie that, despite what was happening in Winona and Minnesota, that the United States would never work together and put their great scientific and engineering might to solve the problem of climate change unless they felt that some other country was creating a better world which would last longer and be a better world than theirs.

They had gone to America with great hope, but as they returned to Britain they were really worried that the problems of climate change would never be solved. They were worried that, once more, wars would start and the world would again be threatened as it was during the World War when Walter and Winnie were young. It was a terrible thought. They would have much to tell Gran Main, Gran Chi and Gran Flad when they returned to Fladbury.

## **Invitations to China**

As always, when Walter, Winnie and Gran Am returned to Fladbury they went out in the bell boat, “Spirit of Fladbury and the Climate Revolution”, so that they could talk, listen and decide what next to do.

Walter spoke. “We had a great time in the United States”, he said. “But, despite the efforts of our friends in Winona, we do not think that the United States can lead the world in solving the problem of climate change. There are just too many leaders who believe that there is no need for change.

**“We have always looked to the United States to lead the world and now it seems that they won’t. Gran Am, Winnie and I are are very worried. We believe that with no world leadership, the problems caused by global warming will lead to many conflicts and even another world war.”**

**“I disagree,” said Gran Chi. “China is now becoming the greatest industrial power in the world and her leaders do not deny that they have a problem with climate change, water shortage and all the other environmental problems. They know that there is a great need for change throughout the world.**

**“The president of China has made many speeches saying that China will lead the way in solving the problems, and has said that the way to do it is to get the ideas of emission reduction deep into the hearts of all the people.**

**“The bell boats, the Main Regattas and the paddle for life are designed to do just that and we can help the president of China get the ideas deep into the hearts of all the children, people and leaders of China.**

**“Every year we have dragon boat festivals across all of China. It is our second most important festival. If we had an event for the children and parents, where they took part in a Main Regatta for Our Home the Blue Planet, as part of the dragon boat festivals, then soon everyone in China would be taking part and all the world will know.**

**“I am sure that if the president of China knew about the Walter’s ideas he would be delighted to take part and sign paddles for life for races in China. Our most important task is to try every way that we can to get the paddle for life and the ideas to the President.**

**“How are we going to that?” asked Walter.**

**“I think that the first thing to do is to inspire the Chinese ambassador in Britain to sign the paddle for life we have for China, said Gran Chi.” “I will write and ask her to do so.”**

**It was not long before Gran Chi had a reply from the Chinese ambassador, who said she would be delighted to sign, and invited Gran Chi, Gran Flad, Walter and Winnie to the Chinese embassy in London.**

The Chinese ambassador was a very pleasant, quietly spoken lady with a beautiful smile. She was delighted to meet Walter, Winnie, Gran Flad and Gran Chi and gave them an Olympic torch from the Beijing Olympics to hold together with the paddles for life. In their right hand they held the Olympic torch, which has been lit in Greece, the centre of Western civilisation which had given the Olympics to the world. In their left hand they held the Paddle for Life, symbol of Chinese civilisation, the oldest on the Blue Planet.

The ambassador said that the Chinese president loved children and she was certain that if he knew how they and a story from Chinese history could help to bring the world on board to solve its greatest problems, he would be delighted to take part. She promised to do her very best to get the message to the president. The ambassador told them that the best way to make sure the Chinese president knew about the ideas was to get the British Queen, because she was the head of the state, to sign the paddle for life.

After listening to the Chinese ambassador, Walter wrote to the British Queen and asked her to sign a Paddle for Life for Beijing, but she had to say no, because the rules did not allow it. Walter and Winnie were very sad, for the British Queen, at the stroke of a pen, could have inspired the Chinese president to take part and that would have started the “Climate Revolution, but they did not give up.

They asked the Chinese ambassador if she would send the Paddle for Life, which she and the Prime Minister of the Britain had signed, to the mayor of Beijing. She was delighted to do so and sent it to the mayor of Beijing, who signed the Chinese Paddle for Life and sent the ideas to the mayors of the cities of Penglai and Weifang. The mayors were very proud of the history of Beijing, Penglai and Weifang and thought they were the very best places in China to launch the ideas that had been inspired by the story of Qu Yuan. The mayors of Penglai, Weifang and Beijing quickly sent invitations to Gran Chi, Walter and Winnie to visit Penglai, Weifang and Beijing.

They were delighted. Gran Main immediately flew to Asunder to ask the Grans of Penglai, Weifang and Beijing who were called Gran Pen, Gran Wei and Gran Bei to join them in Fladbury. They were all coloured like Gran Chi.

As always, they went out on the “Spirit of Fladbury and the Climate Revolution”, but this time with a full crew of eight paddlers and one helm.

**Gran Main took the helm with, Gran Am, Gran Chi, Gran Bei, Gran Pen, Gran Wei, Gran Flad, Walter, Winnie paddling.**

**Gran Main spoke. “It seems that the only way humans will now survive on the planet is if China leads the way with these English ideas. All ideas have a time and place. We know that this is the time and so the place where the ideas start in China is very important. We have had an invitation from the mayors of Penglai, Weifang and Beijing, so I have asked Gran Pen, Gran Wei and Gran Bei here to tell us all about their cities.”**

**They stopped the boat to listen to Gran Pen, Gran Wei and Gran Bei.**

## **Penglai, Weifang and Beijing**

**Gran Pen was the first to speak. She had a pure white shell and white swallow shaped wings, a yellow head and a red body. Her eyes were brown and her name was written on her shell in red letters.**

**“Penglai is a very historic place in China. It is called the Water City, or Water Fortress and is beside the ocean. It has a Secret Harbour. It has Naval Museum with many ancient ships and boats. It is in Shandong Province, where Confucius was born and it is part of Yantai which has a famous school for the deaf.**

**“It was from Penglai where the fabled Eight Immortals set out floating over the ocean and where the first Chinese emperor sent off five hundred boys and girls on ships, to the east, to look for islands of immortality. Because of this two Chinese emperors have visited Penglai.**

**“Penglai is one of China’s top tourist attractions and more than two million people from China visit it each year. There can be no better place in the whole of China for getting the president’s message to all in China and all across the Blue Planet. From Penglai, China can share our great history with all the world and use it to ensure the immortality of human civilisation.”**

**Gran Pen sat down and Gran Wei quickly stood up and started to speak. Like Gran Pen she had a pure white shell and white swallow shaped wings, a yellow head and a red body. Her eyes were brown and her name was written on her shell in red letters**

**“Weifang is a very important place in China. Like Penglai, it is in Shandong Province, where Confucius was born. Here, beside the Bohai Sea, we are building the new water city of Binhai. We call it the “Venice of China”.**

**“It is a great technological and manufacturing centre and has many festivals. It is the world centre for Kite Flying. At our festivals we have Dragon Boat Racing and we take part in the Dragon Boat Festival every year.**

**“If all the eight year old children of Weifang made a Paddle for Life, planted trees and took part with their parents and teachers in the Weifang-Main Regatta for the Blue Planet as part of the Dragon Boat Festival and we had a Paddle for Life signed by our president and mayor as the perpetual prize, all of China would know about how Chinese history could save the Blue Planet and civilisation. All the children and people of China would be very proud of what they were doing for the world.**

**“Then, if we had the bell boat racing, with our children, parents and teachers at our International Kite Surfing competition then all the world would find out about the ideas.**

**“Weifang is one of the cities of the Bohai Sea Economic Ring and the Shandong Peninsula Blue Economic Zone, where a marine economy is being built. With the children on board with their powerful world symbol of a paddle for life, in the decades to come the Bohia Sea and the Shandong Blue Zone could become an environmental model known across the world. The gondola is a symbol of Venice. The bell boat could be the symbol of Blue Economic Zone and the greatest world model of the Main Regatta for the Blue Planet**

**“ From Weifang, as from Penglai, China can can share our great history with all the world and use it to ensure the immortality of human civilisation.”**

**Gran Wei sat down and Gran Bei quickly stood up and started to speak. Like Gran Pen and Gran Wei she had a pure white shell and white swallow shaped wings, a red body and a yellow head. Her eyes were brown and her name was written on her shell in red letters.**

**“I think that it would be wonderful to launch the ideas in Penglai and Weifang for both of them have great histories, which can be used to take our message to the world, but I believe, if our aim is to inspire the president and leaders of China to take part that we must launch the ideas in Beijing.**

**“Beijing is the capital city of China. The president and all her leaders live there on the banks of a beautiful lake, which would be a brilliant place to hold voyages and regattas for the children and families.**

**“The 2008 Olympics focussed the minds of all the world on Beijing. I am sure that if we held the Main Regatta for Our Home on the Blue Planet in Beijing, at the time of the Dragon Boat Festival, and all the children of Beijing made a paddle for life and planted trees to replace the carbon, all the people of China would want to take part.**

**As Gran Bei sat down all the crew clapped and cheered.**

**“That’s wonderful.” said Gran Main. We must now make sure that we inspire the mayors of Penglai, Weifang and Beijing to help us to save their home on the Blue Planet. Let’s GO DO IT!**

## **A Voyage to China**

**The future of the whole of human civilisation now seemed to rest on Penglai, Weifang and Beijing. Walter, Winnie, Gran Flad, Gran Main and Gran Chi knew how important it was to make sure that the president of China would one day launch the bell boats and ideas in China.**

**Once more they wrote to the British Queen asking if she would sign a Paddle for Life for the president of China. Once more they were told that the British system did not allow it, no matter how great the cause. But they did not give up.**

**They thought what next they could do and wrote to the prime minister of Britain and asked him to name three bell boats for China. He was delighted to take part. He was also delighted to sign two more paddles for life for Penglai, and Weifang.**

**The prime minister named three bell boats, the “Spirit of Qu Yuan and The Climate Revolution”, for Penglai, Weifang and Beijing and wished Walter, Winnie, Gran Flad and Gran Chi a very good voyage to China.**

**Within a few weeks, Gran Chi, Gran Pen, Gran Wei and Gran Bei, flew Walter, Winnie, Gran Flad and the three bell boats and the paddles for life to China.**

The bell boats and the ideas were first launched at a meeting for future world leaders, on a beach by the Bohai Sea. Children from Penglai schools and the School for the Deaf took part with the future world leaders in a truly wonderful ceremony. The mayor signed the Penglai Paddle for Life and students from the university took part in a race and were presented with the perpetual trophy. It was then hung in the Penglai museum, so that all the people of Penglai could see it.

The mayor was delighted and promised to inspire all the children and people of Penglai to take part in an annual event and put the idea of all working together to solve the great environmental problems deep into people's hearts. The children and people of Penglai gave Walter, Winnie and the Grans great hope and inspiration to carry on with their voyage.

Gran Pen stayed in Penglai to help the mayor to inspire all the children and people of Penglai. Walter, Winnie, Gran Flad, Gran Main, Gran Chi and Gran Wei flew two bell boats and the two remaining Paddles for Life to Weifang-Binhai. Weifang-Binhai is the centre for kite surfing in China and the day that Walter and Winnie arrived there was the opening ceremony of their International Kite Surfing competition.

It was a huge and colourful occasion with thousands of spectators. The children took part in the opening ceremony together with all the kite surfing competitors from nations around the world. The mayor signed the Weifang Paddle for Life and the children took part in a race and were presented with the perpetual trophy. It was then hung in the Weifang-Binhai museum, so that all the people of Weifang and the world could see it.

The mayor of Weifang was delighted and promised to inspire all the children and people of Weifang Binhai to take part in an annual event and put the idea of all working together to solve the great environmental problems deep into people's hearts. The children and people of Weifang and the world's kite surfers gave Walter, Winnie and the Grans great hope and inspiration to carry on with their voyage.

Gran Wei stayed in Weifang-Binhai to help the mayor whilst Walter, Winnie, Gran Main and Gran Flad flew to Beijing, the capital city of China.

The mayor said that, like Gran Bei, he believed that there was no better place to take the Chinese president's message to China and the world, and that he

thought it would be wonderful if the president of China one day signed the Beijing Paddle for Life and launched, the “Spirit of Qu Yuan and The Climate Revolution”, with the children of Beijing and then signed Paddles for Life for the president of the United States and other world leaders.

Walter agreed. “When we met the Chinese ambassador in London, she told us that the best way to get the president of China to sign the Paddle for Life was to get the British Queen to sign it because she, like your president, is the head of the state. We have tried many times to get that to happen but the rules in Britain do not allow her to do so. However, I am sure that we will find another way get these British ideas to your president. We have to, for if we don’t, many many millions of people will die in the years to come.

“I believe we need to ask all the Grans in Asunder to help. We need to use the brains of everyone on the Blue Planet for victory in the Climate Revolution, and we need to use the brain of all the Grans if we are to get the ideas to the president of China.”

“I agree”, said Gran Main. “We must all fly back to Asunder and talk to all the Grans of the Blue Planet”.

## **Back in Asunder**

Back in Asunder, Gran meeting called a meeting of all the Grans.

Gran Main spoke. “It’s wonderful to be back with you all again. We had a great time in China and we now have high hopes that one day the Fladbury and British ideas will be used by the leaders of China, but we have a great problem and we need to discuss it with you with great urgency. We need your help.

“To spread the ideas quickly throughout China we need to get them into the hands of the president. When the Chinese ambassador signed the Paddles for Life in London she told Walter, Winnie and Gran Flad that the best way to make sure the Chinese president knew about the ideas was to get the British Queen, because she was the head of the state, to sign the Paddle for Life.

“Walter and Winnie have tried many times to inspire the British Queen to sign the paddle for the president of China, but they always get the same answer - ‘the rules do not allow it, no matter how great the cause’. But we must find a way if

**we are to save the humans on the Blue Planet from destroying the very home that they live in.**

**“Somewhere on the Blue Planet is a leader of a nation who can get the ideas into the hands of the president of China. Who would like to volunteer?”**

**All the Grans put their hands up to say that they would help.**

**“I think that we should first of all send a few Grans to the Blue Planet and then learn from their experiences before you all go”, said Gran Main. If you will let me be the “coach” I will select a crew to take part.”**

**All the Grans agreed and Gran Main selected Gran Sing for Singapore, Gran Kaz for Kazakhstan, Gran Russ for Russia, Gran Pak for Pakistan, Gran Ind for India and Gran Can for Canada. She also selected Gran Lit and Gran Ger for Europe. She asked them to work with all the Grans of the EU and bring them together into a crew for Europe.**

**Gran Main wished them all well and asked them do everything that they could to find a leader who would help them to get the ideas to the president of China and then fly back to Asunder.**

**They all flew off to the Blue Planet and started to ask the leaders for their help. All the leaders they spoke to said that they thought the ideas were great and most were happy to sign a Paddle for Life for their country. The president of Lithuania became the first president and head of state on the Blue Planet to sign a Paddle for Life.**

**A Paddle for Life was signed by the Russian ambassador for the president of Russia and the ambassadors of Kazakhstan and Germany signed, as did the presidents of the EU and whenever they signed their Grans asked them if they would inspire their prime ministers or head of state to inspire the president of China to sign their paddle for them.**

**But, none of the Grans managed to get it to happen and they all felt that they had failed the children of the Blue Planet. Eventually, they all returned to Asunder and reported back to Gran Main, saying that they were very sorry for failing to achieve what they had set out to do.**

**Gran Main listened and then called a meeting of all the Grans, so that the Grans that had been sent to the Blue Planet could tell them all about what had happened. They were all disappointed that not one of the Grans had managed to inspire the leader of their country to get their leaders to get the ideas to the president of China. Then Gran Main spoke.**

**“There’s no need to be sad and disappointed,” she said. “What we must do is to learn from what happened, see if we can improve on what we did, and then we must try again”. We must never, never, ever give up. So let us all think about what we are doing wrong and then we might be able to find a better way.”**

**So they all went into small groups and discussed what had gone wrong and then they had a meeting of all to tell the others what they thought. There were many ideas but then Winnie spoke.**

**“The group that I was in thought about many things but we believe that we know what is going wrong. All the leaders that we have met have been happy to sign a Paddle for Life for us, but they do not have the time to really understand what it is all about.**

**“Perhaps none of the leaders have paddled in a bell boat. Perhaps none of the leaders have been out in a Dragon Boat. Perhaps none of the leaders have been out with the children and teachers on voyages or taken part in regattas. Perhaps none of the leaders have made a Paddle for Life and above all perhaps none of them have felt the happiness that the children, teachers, parents, and grandparents feel by taking part.**

**“We have all taken part and know all about the ideas. Whatever questions people ask us about them we can answer them, and are very happy to do so.**

**“It’s very different for the leaders. With so many other things to do, they don’t have the time to learn and take part in what we are doing, so, if they were asked a question they would not know what to say and it would be embarrassing. We do not like to be embarrassed and it’s exactly the same for our leaders. It would be very embarrassing for them to take the ideas to the president of China and then not to be able to answer any questions that he asked.**

**“It would also be bad for these ideas, because, without the right answers, from someone with the knowledge and experience, the president of China would not**

**be inspired and would not pass them on to all the children, teachers, parents and grandparents of China.”**

**“You are absolutely right.” said Gran Main. “It is a huge problem, in getting any new ideas to the leaders of any organisation, when they do not have the knowledge and experience. But one day perhaps there will be a leader on the Blue Planet who does have the experience and the knowledge and has the confidence to take the ideas to the president of China.**

**“The problem of global warming will not go away, ever now. The “Climate Revolution” could last for hundreds of years and after that the humans will have to take care of their home for evermore, so we must keep on searching.”**

**There was a great silence amongst the Grans and then, from the back of the meeting the Gran Flad, the grandmother of Fladbury stood up and spoke. All the Grans turned round to listen.**

## **A Gift from Britain**

**“There has just been a huge change in Britain”, said Gran Flad. “Before WW2, Britain had a great Empire, which included India, Australia, New Zealand, Canada and many more countries. After the war the British Empire ended and the leaders of Britain decided to become part of the European Union. But some people did not like being told what to do by the European Union, so a vote was held to decide what to do. The British people decided to leave and now everything is changing as Britain goes its own way in the world. The British now have a new woman prime minister to bring about all the changes that are needed.**

**“For the people of Britain to survive they have to sell things to the other countries of the world, and each country has different rules for how they sell to each other. As part of the European Union, the rules were agreed by the European Union with all the other countries on our planet, but now Britain has decided to leave, they will have to agree the rules with all the other countries. Which means that they need to be the best of friends with all those other countries and especially with China, the largest country in the world.**

**“There is also a new president in China called President Xi. The new president has led the way in working, together with America, to bring all the world together and on board and working together to tackle the climate change problem. The president of America has a dream that his legacy will be about the part he played in getting the world to solve the problem. Together, they have led to the whole world agreeing, in Paris, that they must all work together to solve the problem.**

**“The greatest thing that Britain could do for President Xi to help their friendship, would be a Paddle for Life, signed by the Queen. For it would help President Xi to inspire all the people of China to take part in solving the climate change problem, it would mean that he could help his friend, the president of America to get their message to all the people of America, and it would help President Xi to take his message to all the other world leaders. It would help to make Britain and China the very best of friends, working together to tackle the greatest problem for all humans.**

**“I am sure that the new woman prime minister would be able to inspire the Queen to sign a Paddle for Life for President Xi, if she knew all about the ideas. It would help her to bring about all the changes that Britain needs and would make Britain, not only the best of friends with China, but the best of friends with America and all the other countries in the world. We must find a way of bringing the new woman prime minister on board.**

**“I am also sure that if the Queen was asked she would be delighted to take part. She is a great grandmother. The greatest gift that she could give to all her family and the the world would be a way to make life safer and better for all our great grandchildren and all the great grandchildren on our planet.**

**“It would also help to out right a great wrong. Many years ago, when Britain had a mighty Navy, it forced China to buy drugs which were grown in India, in exchange for tea. It caused great problems in China and it led to what the Chinese children know as their “century of humiliation” by the British. Because of that many people in China hate the British.**

**“But there is hope. When we visited Penglai, a very important leader told us that because of the bell boats, the Paddle for Life and the ideas that we had given the children of China, his feelings toward the British people had changed. He no longer hated them, which was wonderful to hear. So, if the Queen signed a Paddle for Life, the story would spread through China and all the Chinese**

would love all the British people. In one small act, the past could be put to right and with China and Britain working together to make the world a better place for all, all the world would win.

By now all the Grans were standing and cheering Gran Flad. She had given them all hope and they knew that now they would be victorious in bringing all the world on board to fight in the “Climate Revolution”.

Gran Main stood up. “Thank you for your brilliant speech. It gave us all hope. When you get back to Fladbury, Gran Chi, Winnie, Walter, and Gran Flad, you must find a way of bringing the new woman prime minister on board. She is now our best hope.

She waved her ears in the air, like Churchill’s “V” sign and all the Grans cheered and shouted “Together, WE CAN DO IT!”

Gran Main, spoke again.

“We must say, ‘Bon Voyage and Good Paddling’ to Gran Chi, Gran Flad, Walter and Winnie. On their way back to the Blue Planet they must plant three Paddles for Life on the Moon, carrying the flags of China, the United States and Britain, to give a vision to all on the Blue Planet of what we are trying to do.”

With all the Gran’s shouting ‘Bon Voyage and Good Paddling’, Gran Chi, and Gran Flad picked up Walter and Winnie and waving the three Paddles for Life in the air, they flew off and in a flash were on the Moon. They planted the flags and then flew back to Fladbury

## **Back on The Blue Planet**

Back in Fladbury Gran Flad, Gran Chi, Walter and Winnie sat down together and wrote the story for the new woman prime minister. It is this story!

They then invited the prime minister to launch two bell boats on the River Thames in her parliamentary constituency, and go out on the bell boats, so that they could show her all the ideas. She was delighted to do so.

The first bell boat was named, the “Spirit of Maidenhead and the Climate Revolution” and on the stern it was named the “Spirit of John MacGregor and

**the Climate Revolution”. John McGregor was the Anglo-Scot, who started the modern sport of canoeing in 1865.**

**The second bell boat was named the “Spirit of China and the Climate Revolution” and on the stern it was named the “Spirit of Qu Yuan and the Climate Revolution”, after the Chinese poet, whose death led to the start of Dragon Boat racing.**

**Once she had taken part and been on board the bell boat, the prime minister was delighted to send the story and the Paddle for Life to President Xi. He was delighted to read the story and delighted that the Chinese Dragon Boat paddle was being used to take his message around the world. He led the way by signing the Beijing Paddle for Life and inspired all he children of China to make their own Paddle for Life and to plant trees to replace the wood that they had used. He inspired his leaders to sign Paddles for Life to be used as trophies for regattas. He then had a factory built to make bell boats for the people of China and the world.**

**The president of China then gave a Chinese Paddle for Life to all the leaders of the world and to each he gave two bell boats, the story and all the ideas.**

**The first bell boat was always named the “Spirit of China and the Climate Revolution” and on the stern the “Spirit of Qu Yuan and the Climate Revolution”, so that all the world would learn about China’s great and long history.**

**The second bell boat was named for the nation that it was being given to, with a name on the stern about some individual who had played a great part in that nation’s history. The bell boat for America was named the “Spirit of the United States and the Climate Revolution” and on the stern the “Spirit of John Winthrop and the Energy Climate Revolution”.**

**On the stern for Germany was the “Spirit of Winfrid and the Climate Revolution”. On the stern for Lithuania was the “Spirit of President Dalia and the Climate Revolution”. On the stern for France, was the “Spirit of Baron de Coubertin and the Climate Revolution”. On the stern for Pakistan was the “Spirit of Noah and the Climate Revolution”, and so it went on. Each and every nation had a story to tell to inspire its children to use it to create a better future.**

**Soon all the world had bell boats, all the world's children went on Main Voyages for their Home on the Blue Planet and took part in Main Regattas for their Home on the Blue Planet.**

**Finally, one day, the president of China sent two bell boats as a gift to the Queen of Britain. On the stern of the British bell boat was the "John MacGregor".**

**The British Queen, delighted with her gift, asked her grandson to visit Evesham and launch the two boats, invented in Great Britain and now made in China, on the waters of Shakespeare's Avon. The town is famous as the town where the father of parliamentary democracy died in the Battle of Evesham, some 750 ago, defending the parliamentary cause against the Monarch. Now parliament and the Monarch were working together with all the people of Britain, to inspire China to inspire the whole world to tackle the greatest problem facing humanity.**

**Using their great histories, China and Britain brought the world on board to tackle its greatest ever problem - and all who took part were very happy doing it. China and Britain, together, brought happiness and hope to all the people of the Blue Planet.**

**On Asunder, Gran Main looked down and smiled as she saw what was happening. For the first time since she had flown Walter and Winnie to the Blue Planet, eighty years before, Gran Main felt that there was now great hope for a safer and better life for the humans and all other life on the Blue Planet. She felt very, very happy.**

**That night she slept soundly in her bed.**

**“Dear President Xi,**

**In appreciation of the part played by Chinese boating culture I am delighted to send you these gifts of a Paddle for Life, shaped in the form of a Dragon Boat paddle - which has been signed by HM The Queen, together with our shared story.**

**We hope they will inspire all your children, in the true Olympic spirit, to “take part” in solving the climate change problem and that you will give a Chinese Paddle for Life and the ideas to leaders across the world, to inspire all their children to take part. We will all win gold.**

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**“Dear Prime Minister May,**

**Thank you for sending me the story and the part played by Chinese and Hawaiian boating culture to bring all the world on board to tackle the greatest problem facing humanity, and the Paddle for Life. I hope that one day all the children of China will read the story and make their Paddle for Life.**

**I will be delighted to give all the world leaders a Paddle for Life, the story, boats and ideas, starting with the leaders of the G20. I am delighted to send you a photograph of me grasping the Beijing Paddle for Life, which I have now signed.**



**Thank you again for making me aware of these British designed ‘soft power weapons’, inspired by Chinese culture. We will use them to bring harmony to the world.”**

**President Xi Jinping.**

Together WE CAN and WE WILL!

# Saving Our Home On The Blue Planet

W E C A N  
by ...bringing the idea deep into people's hearts." with

## A Chinese Paddle for Life

If President Xi presents the Paddles for Life to the leaders of the G20

The world needs China to lead the way

We Will Save Our Home On The Blue Planet

President Xi Jinping

# G20

16-18 Nov 2014 Hangzhou