

The Climate Change Revolution: Pershore Abbey Pointing the Way for Worcestershire, Westminster and the World by Flying Two Flags on 5th June 2019



In his book “Harmony” published in 2010 Prince Charles calls for a “Sustainability Revolution” if humanity is to survive. This month the Welsh and then British Parliaments declared a “Climate Emergency”. Worcestershire County Council are debating the issue and many cities are now declaring climate emergencies.

Here in the Vale of Evesham, Pershore has been at the heart of set of ideas developed over the last thirty years to bring all the world on board to take part in the “Climate Revolution” through paddlesport, art, culture and by using all our great history to set out on a voyage to a new sustainable future.

Thousands of Pershore people have taken part in Voyages and Regattas for “Our Home on the Blue Planet” as we in Worcestershire have attempted to get the message of climate change to the world. On the team bell boat, which we use, there are flags which spell out the message, “WE the crew of the Spirit of Pershore, knowing that Urgent Medical Attention is needed for Our Blue Planet are Changing Course to Avoid a Catastrophe and inspiring all the nations of our planet to take part.”

The sea signalling flags, now not used because of better ways of signalling, are very much part of our history, used by Nelson in his message “England Expects”, before the Battle of Trafalgar. Now we can use them to signal the message of the “Climate Revolution” to the world.

When discussing climate change, many people, rightly, say that whatever we do here in England the problem cannot be solved unless all the other countries of the world take part, with China and America leading the way. We in England, now having declared a climate emergency, have the Olympian problem of how to inspire all the world to take part. But, we believe that Pershore can signal to Worcestershire, Wales, Westminster and the world, how to do it, by being the first church in England to fly the two signalling flags on 5th June.

Today, millions of ordinary people, each year, take part in marathons and events inspired by having a personal cause such as cancer or heart research. One day they decide to do it and then take the first step. Step by step they train and, within a year or two, often less, miraculously, they manage to run a marathon.

Across the globe we, as humans, all have to be inspired to do the same for “Our Home on the Blue Planet”, now in a state of ever worsening ill health. Pershore is in pole position to signal that message to all at home but, even better, has a unique opportunity to signal the ideas to America.

George Mason University in Virginia is named after George Mason 4th, a founding father of the United States and the author of the Virginia Declaration of Rights, hailed as the model for the Bill of Rights. His great grandfather was born in Pershore on 5th June and christened in the Abbey. He fought in the Civil War as a Royalist and, when defeated, fled to Norfolk, Virginia on board the ship “Assurance” in 1652.

George Mason University is one of the two main centres for climate change communication in America, the other is Yale. Because of our work in the Vale, they are well aware of what we are doing here, as are our friends in Norfolk, Virginia. Now we can inspire them to raise the flags of the “Climate Revolution” in Virginia, to “Assure” them that WE have invented a way of inspiring the world to take part in the “Climate Revolution”, and to invite them to use the ideas to “Assure” America and inspire all other states on board.

With Pershore Abbey pointing the way, other villages, towns, cities throughout England, Wales, Scotland and Northern Ireland, will be inspired to take part,

flying the two flags as the first step. With their many European and Commonwealth connections they can quickly inspire all the world to take part.

Each have their own histories, with connections to every corner of our Blue Planet. Each has a story that can now be used to serve this great common cause, for the common good of humanity and all life. By working together WE can not only signal how to do it to all other nations of our planet, but WE can indeed set all on a voyage to “Save Our Home on the Blue Planet”.

These ideas were started in Fladbury in 1972 when Michael Goode, the enthusiastic rector “knocked on my door” to tell me about a new idea that he had to keep young people out of trouble. He told me that, rather than start a youth club, he thought if he asked adults in the village who loved their sport, art, craft or whatever, to take two or three youngsters under their wing and pass on their love of what they did to the youngsters we would create a better society.

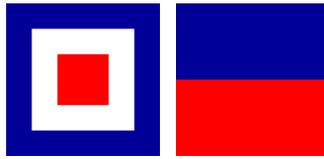
I told Michael that because of my job I hadn't the time. He asked, “What about your duty to society?” I succumbed, and we formed Fladbury Paddle Club which has brought the love of water to thousands of people and taken many to the top of sport and the Olympic heights. But the greatest thing to emerge from it was the team bell boat, now being used to put hundreds of thousands of young people of all ages on to the water, with its message about climate change.

On 12th April 2019, Fladbury CoE First School pupils started a new tradition of reading out a poem, “Two Flags” and raising and striking the flags. It will soon be set to the music of “WE plough the fields and scatter the good seeds on the land”, which seems very appropriate from the market garden of England.

On 8th May I “knocked on the door” of Claire Lording, the enthusiastic Vicar of Pershore. Within two days I was led up the one hundred and ninety nine steps to the top of Pershore Abbey by flag master David Bryden, who made history by being the first flagmaster in the world to “raise and strike” the flags over a church building.

The enthusiastic Michael Goode set out to create a better society. Now Pershore Abbey and the people of Pershore, thanks to the enthusiastic Claire Lording, are set to “knock on the door” to signal and inspire the world to take part in a voyage to create a better civilisation and better world. All WE need on the day is a fair breeze to blow out the flags so that all the world will see.

W E



Two Flags

WE raise and “strike” on Fridays,
Two flags which say it all,
How our Blue Planet’s in danger,
And WE must change our course.
WE need our leaders with us,
On board and paddling hard,
If WE’re to change the climate,
And save all life from harm.

WE raise and “strike” on Fridays.
So rulers of our lands,
Will listen to the children,
And clap them with their hands
So now on every Friday,
Until our planet’s safe,
WE raise and “strike”, WE raise and “strike”,
Two flags which say it all.

David W. Train. President Fladbury Paddle Club.
Former Olympic coach.

First performed at Fladbury CoE First School. 12th April 2019

