

DEMOCRACY WITHOUT POLITICIANS

THE FIRST PILLAR OF GOVERNANCE

In the explosive novel '**It Could Just Happen**' a terrorist plot destroys not only a government but causes a reset of how the citizens learn how to govern themselves.

There are no political parties and no professional politicians.

County Councils and Parish Councils combine to produce communities.

Each community have a randomly selected governing group who use the Edward de Bono Six Hat procedure to find the answer to complex problems.

The Chairman, assisted by a diverse group of advisors, provide questions for each community to debate and find answers for.

As the author of that book, I have been asked to provide further details (by way of a podcast) on each of the seven pillars of governance.

LIFELONG EDUCATION

THE GREATEST RESOURCE THAT OUR COUNTRY HAS, ARE OUR CHILDREN.

It is known that a child's brain grows more in its first three and a half years than at any other time.

So, what can parents teach their children before they even go to school?

Language skills, reading, and arithmetic can all be mastered before arriving at school.

I would encourage all new parents to check out the App ELOF2GO if they really want to give their children an important boost to life.

However, we would also need to consider whether mothers or fathers should take time out to develop these skills in their offspring. Then, how should we pay for it. Should employers offer a longer period of paid maternity/paternity leave? Should all serious parents factor the time cost

for this vital development into the calculation for becoming a parent?
Could grandparents or teenage family members assist?

Our school curriculum was designed for a colonial empire on which the sun never set. I would argue that it is not fit for purpose for the twenty-first century. Then, we needed young men who could write legibly and add up columns of figures to keep record books of sales and purchases. Now we need IT literate people, mathematicians, engineers, physicists, chemists, and polyglots that can use AI in all these fields.

I would urge you to hear what Sir Ken Robinson and Charles Leadbeater say about this. Review the work of Sugata Mitra and his 'Hole in the Wall' experiment.

If you agree with me that our children are the greatest resource that our country possesses, why do we pay our teachers so little?

It seems so obvious, if we are to attract the people that not only have the knowledge, and the charisma to inspire our young people to embark on the adventure of learning, then these vitally important people should be rewarded with a pay scale of at least as much as senior executives in the private or public sector.

I have a strongly held belief that it would be valuable to implement peer to peer teaching in mixed aged classes – sometimes by teaching others it is possible to make new discoveries yourself. Teachers/mentors can achieve more by simply proposing questions and allow the students to discover the answers. Or even task the students to seek answers to their own questions. If this all sounds airy fairy, I would urge you again to look at the work of Sugata Mitra and discover how impoverished children have mastered many advanced subjects including advanced mathematics from a computer set in a wall in a slum location on the Indian subcontinent.

Now let's get radical. How about we change the pattern of working from Monday to Friday (as described in my podcast 'You've got to Earn it before you Spend it') to four days on and four days off. Each working day 8am-6pm with an hour for lunch and a mid-morning and a mid-afternoon break. The children should be able to reflect their parents work pattern. The young ones would have a nap each afternoon. The older ones would have time for music, dance, sport, gardening, cooking, as well as investigating the world that we inhabit with all its pleasures and problems. There would be no need for homework.

Experts from a world-wide base could provide electronic courses on a cloud platform that could be beamed to students of every discipline which with their teacher/mentor/peer assistant guiding and assisting the students to navigate the true adventure of learning.

There would still be time for every student to be encouraged to play a musical instrument, take dance and/or singing lessons, try out for all sports, write, and direct their own dramas whilst having the facility to watch the classics.

One hour each day should be set aside to read a book of their choice (traditional or electronic).

Research centres and industrial manufacturing experts, including robotics, AI, and renewable energy providers should ensure that all our teaching establishments are made aware of the skill sets that will be necessary in the national interest. Computer games not just for amusement but to understand the coding that drives the system that gives so much pleasure.

Adventure training needs to be made available for all.

All schools should be closed for the month of July to mirror trade and industry.

Now let me make some radical suggestions.

Universities should focus on research. Most lecturers would describe students as a necessary nuisance that they could do without were it not for discovering post graduate people to assist with their research.

All young people on reaching 17yrs. should carry out a two-year period of national service. This is not military service (albeit there would be the opportunity for specialist military training for those that choose the path of national defence) but a training in community living from growing their own food to caring for the older generation. Basic skills like driving, carpentry, plumbing, DIY. For those interested in gaining skills that are not usually taught in schools, new farming methods, hydroponics, aquaponics, fish farming, commercial fishing, navigation, renewable energy initiatives. The new approach to teaching, nursing, physical training, sport.

This would be a multicultural, all gender service where they all live and learn away from home in their own communities governed by Edward de Bono's Six Hat Theory in a self-governing environment. Advisors in all disciplines would be present to advise and suggest direction of travel.

There would be a common dress code of denim and there would be a modest weekly allowance.

When overseas aid is requested, these youngsters, mentored by experts in the field, would assist in building infrastructure, providing medical aid and education overseas?

On reaching 19 years of age, they leave their communities to either move into tertiary education or commence part-time apprenticeships whilst carry on a fulltime employment. A continual education programme would be available without charge throughout life as requirement changes?

They would all, by now, have learnt how to embrace change as something both challenging and beneficial?

It should be possible to engineer an ethos, throughout the entire education cycle, that would promote respect for each other (manners), eradicate all forms of bullying, seeking always to improve the community in which we live?

If nationally, we could create an educational system based on the above, I would argue that we would improve our society whilst at the same time produce the creativity to remain as a major subscriber in the world's requirement for innovation and sustainability?

Thank you for listening to these very important questions.

If, like me, you think that our present education system is not fit for purpose for the twenty-first century, the written script for this blog has been published on www.phoenixfilmandpublishing.co. discuss it with friends and family and let's hope that one day we might see some of the required changes take place.

My next poscast is 'You've Got to Make the Money Before You Can Spend It' and will deal with entrepreneurship, taxation, and common ownership.