

DEMOCRACY WITHOUT POLITICIANS.

THE SEVENTH PILLAR.

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

THE SEVENTH PILLAR.

CLIMATE CHANGE.

Climate change is a simple fact of life. For the inhabitants of the British Isles (a small island nation) surrounded by ocean and close to a major land mass and partially insulated by the Gulf Stream it is not surprising that the changeable weather patterns become a regular part of conversation.

Even the irregular rainstorms that result in flooding or hosepipes bans in times of drought, long periods of extremely low pressure that brings heavy falls of snow and bitterly cold temperatures, are nothing new. All these extremes have been recorded in literature, art, parish records and historical accounts.

For longer term climatic history, we need to study the growth rings in ancient trees where a map of past weather conditions may be clearly

observed. To delve further into antiquity, we can map at least five ice ages by the careful studies made by eminent geologists.

The only aspect of the weather that is easy to forecast is that it is constantly changing. It is true that weather forecasting has become more reliable in the last decade thanks to improved computer models and better communication of information, but the meteorologist must remain with the economists whose black art is regularly found to be unreliable.

If climate change is a constant aspect of life on earth why are more dramatic weather events taking place more often than in the past? Scientists from all over the world maintain that this is because of global warming.

Here the evidence is much easier to plot. Thanks to a measurable increase in Carbon Dioxide, Methane, and Nitrous Oxide, in the atmosphere, this planet is measurably getting much warmer. This is called the greenhouse effect where the sun heats the planet, and this heat is contained by these gasses. However, how this will influence or change the climate is subject to much conjecture. Glaciers and ice floes at both polar regions are melting at a rapid rate and computer modelling can indicate what this might mean for rising sea levels. Spasmodic rainfall in some parts of the world creating drought conditions is suddenly reversed giving massive rainfall and flash flooding. Hurricanes and typhoons seem to be more frequent and more devastating. Wildfires burn thousands of square miles every year. All these devastating conditions bring about massive damage and loss of life. Global warming has become, next to nuclear Armageddon, the greatest risk for people to worry about.

From the beginning of the industrial revolution in the mid 1700s the use of coal and steel grew exponentially. By the late 1800s the internal combustion engine was transforming travel. The plentiful supply of oil in the United States saw the explosion of uses for hydrocarbons. It was the increasing use of fossil fuels in Europe and America that enabled those countries with easy access to this fuel to increase the standard of living for people beyond any time in their history. The 19th and 20th centuries saw the west progress materialistically to an extent that even two world wars could not subdue.

It took time, but gradually the penny dropped, Gaia drew attention to material changes that effected the oceans, the forests, the savannahs, and everything that dwelled therein.

Most humans have a problem with change. The fact that from the moment of birth until we breathe our last breath, change is probably the single major constant in our lives.

Nevertheless, try and explain that to the world. If we are to continue to exist, we must **ALL** be prepared to acknowledge that major changes to how we live, and work, and travel, needs to be embraced.

Try telling this to the, so called, third world countries and you will not be surprised if they observe that the Western industrial age who caused most of the problems should not expect that they should hold back their growing industrial muscle to save the world!

However, the world leaders gradually concluded that this really was a global problem that needed to be addressed.

In Glasgow, the 26th United Nations conference on climate change took place. After much hot air had been expelled nations set targets to reduce their carbon emissions with the most optimistic wanting to claim nett zero emissions by 2050.

Renewable energy was to be the priority together with a massive reduction in the use of fossil fuels. Gas and nuclear energy would be used in the interim.

Within six months of COP 26, whilst still reeling from the economic cost of surviving a global pandemic, Russia invaded Ukraine!

Europe was reliant on Russia, as forty percent of the gas was sourced from that country but in company with most of the free world brought sanctions against the aggressor and lost much of its required energy. The world price for hydrocarbons went sky high but even the environmentalists were unhappy when they had to pay their energy bills.

By this winter, it is likely that coal fired power stations will be brought back into action. Many of the French nuclear energy plants have been shut down because of problems with corrosion. Also, a drought has reduced the river levels used for cooling. As Europe moves into recession we can look back at a summer of drought, wildfires, and floods. We might well wonder what the winter might bring.

I am very optimistic. Not in the short term perhaps, but in the longer term there are so many exciting developments. Net zero is a very real possibility if we all play our part.

First, the real biggies:

Fusion, spoken about and researched for many years is much closer than ever before – a small research group in Oxford recently produced Fusion for five seconds. I know that isn't long but scaled up will produce infinite energy infinitely.

Wind and solar energy might soon be overtaken by wave energy.

Electricity is only a potential energy and needs to be stored for use as required. Present batteries need rare earth metals (most of which have already been grabbed by China), but new developments are in the pipeline that could, once again, revolutionise energy storage. Both blue and green hydrogen production is likely to provide even further energy possibilities.

Biofuels that will produce avgas (produced from algae) to power aviation travel.

A farming revolution, using not only trees and hedgerows to sequester carbon dioxide but the very earth. Minimal ploughing, maximum grazing, straw cutting, grass fed animals that organically fertilise the earth. Please don't tell me that vegetarian and vegan diets are the way to go. I cannot agree with anyone who suggests that the only way that we can see the animals that have been part of our way of life is to see a few of them in a zoo.

Homo Sapiens are omnivores, our teeth and our digestive systems bear witness to this fact. If we always ensure that the production, development, and processing of our livestock is perfectly humane then we should celebrate this access to protean in our diet.

The continual rape of the earth, and the production of ever more chemical fertilisers to produce the Soya bean alternative should rightfully be denigrated.

However, it is in the here and now that really interests me. It isn't dramatic, yet it is vital for the survival of this planet in the immediate future.

This is what my novel 'It Could Just Happen' the story of community life demonstrated.

Is your journey really necessary?

Could you walk or cycle?

Do you need more than one car in the family?

If you live in a city, do you need a car at all?

Is your house fully insulated?

Do you have double glazed windows?

What temperature is your thermostat on? Could you wear a light sweater and turn it down a tad?

Talking of clothes, do you really need another pair of jeans or other garment (possibly made in a twenty-first century slave sweat shop).

What's going in the bin today? Need I ask, food that was never eaten.

Do you grow any food in your garden, patio, veranda? Why not, it's easy? Would you allow an authoritarian dictator to damage your way of life?

Enough of this, and I've only just scratched the surface. I only want to make the point that we don't have to depend on our politicians to determine our future.

In my novel 'It Could Just Happen' the community that was produced did everything that this blog suggests there were no politicians and no political parties.

By the way, the story was a military thriller with a very strong romantic centre.

Please read the book and let me know if I missed anything. I will look forward to hearing from you.

Thank you for watching and listening.

The written script for this podcast 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.

We are considering the possibility of producing 'It Could Just Happen' as a nine-part TV series. If you think that this would be a drama that you would like to see, please let us know on www.phoenixfilmandpublishing.com

