

CLIMATE CHANGE AND WHAT TO DO ABOUT IT

‘Extinction Rebellion’(XR) might sound an alarming name for a new international climate change movement, but in a talk to Faringdon Peace Group, Dr. Larch Maxey of XR told us bluntly that **extinction** was what we were facing and **rebellion** was what we had to do about it!

Since October, Larch has devoted himself full-time to XR and explained why. The Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) recently reported that we had 12 years to reverse climate change but the report took so long to produce it was already out of date and reality is racing ahead of all predictions and models. The joint temperature increase of various different feedback loops, like the melting of the ice caps which reflect the sun's rays and the increase in dark water which absorbs them, could amount to 3* causing the Amazon to emit rather than absorb carbon. With this and other such devastating consequences, we could already be at the tipping point of runaway climate change, and urgent action at all levels - personal, national and international - is imperative. It may already be too late, but Larch and other activists believe that they have a moral duty to do the right thing even if success is not guaranteed.

XR is leading an ongoing campaign of non-violent civil disobedience to disrupt daily life and the economy and bring the climate situation to the top of the Government's agenda, forcing them to act. Bridges have been closed in London and recently school children went on strike for a day. 86 year old Reggie Norton from Hatford, who has been active against climate change since 2000, is facing trial for his part in occupying the Dept. of Energy in London. He says he is doing it for the future of his 5 grandchildren.

XR is demanding that; 1. The Government tell the truth and declare a climate emergency, using the media to spread the message; 2. The UK lead the way to zero carbon by 2025; 3. A ‘Citizens Assembly’ be set up to deliver these demands.

Many in the Peace Group were moved by Larch's talk to consider taking action themselves, or to support others in their actions. Research shows that as with other non-violent mass movements like the Suffragettes/gists, Gandhi and Martin Luther King, it takes thousands to take action for a few hundred to be arrested and be sent to prison. It is this that makes the difference – the system cannot cope with processing and holding so many extra prisoners, but mostly it is the adverse publicity and the changing of public opinion that will force the Government to act.

If you are interested in being part of a local Extinction Rebellion group please contact Karen: karen@vogt.org.uk