

**Bourne**  
**toWrite...**  
creative writing  
workshops

## I'm not happy, but I'm happy about that

by Sue Hitchcock

If ignorance is bliss, I'm glad I'm not happy. If ignorance of the Law is no excuse, then surely ignorance of the environmental damage we all do, is no moral justification. Indeed that ignorance will be our destruction, and not only of us. In the last two centuries our lives have completely changed. Imagine yourself as a rabbit, living on the Downs. When there is food, you eat and grow fat, when it is scarce you get thin again. When it is warm, you relax in the sun – with your eyes open, of course. When it is cold, you huddle together and keep each other warm.

In good times you have lots of kits, but foxes will get fat on some of them. Do you think when Tesco feeds the local foxes, it protects the rabbits? Not in the long term. If the foxes breed and too many of them come for feeding, humans turn mean and then the foxes all hunt rabbits. We need to do nothing. We could live like rabbits, taking what life throws at us, but we look too much to our own preservation.

How can I get to the shops before dinner?  
How can I pay for the repair of my car, if I drive too fast and crash?  
How can I pay for my food, if I am injured?  
How can I save myself from dying of disease?  
Where can I live if my house burns down?  
Where can I live if the sea rushes in?  
How can my grandchildren live, if too many immigrants come?

We're rowing backwards towards a waterfall – can you hear the roar of it? It's getting louder.