

Bourne
toWrite...
creative writing
workshops

On James Lovelock's 100th birthday

by Sue Hitchcock

Some people say "The End is Nigh!", wear sandwich boards and point to the sky.

Some people say, "It is God's will! We'll be saved because we believe!"

Some people say, "Poo, poo! The weather changes all the time!"

Some people say, "I like it warm, so bring it on! Hooray!"

But how will it work? Will icecaps melt first, flooding the low-lying land?

Will fire burn the forest, adding smoke to the CO₂ blanket?

Will the tundra melt, releasing the methane, which burns and adds to the carbon?

Will the heat drive winds which bring typhoons and tornados?

"But what can I do?" most people say, "What difference can one person make?"

First, don't become more! We need fewer people and pets! It's mammals who weigh on the planet.

Some people say, "We can live on Mars!". But how much power does it cost to get there?

And the power from fossil fuels has upset the balance to start with.

Some people say, "The future is bleak! We'll be hungry and squashed in with people, whose home have been flooded by rising seas."

This might not be bad, but think of those whose land is burned dry! Climate refugees will need to be helped, not rejected.

Some people say, "A.I. will take over! That will solve the problems!"
But how many defunct electricals have you got in your cupboard?
There'll be piles of old cars and piles of old robots, too old-fashioned to be updated.

Thank Gaia for weeds and for seagulls, which survive and enjoy our rubbish!