

# *The Whole Earth?* Exhibition: A catalyst for course and module innovation

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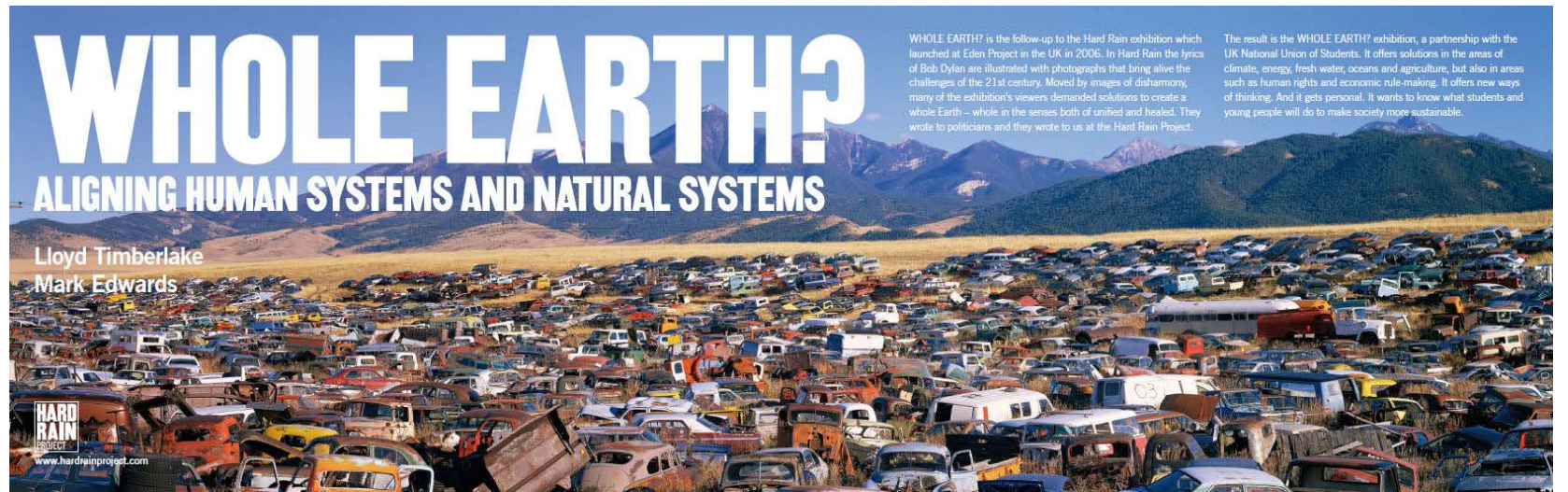
futures initiative



developing futures thinking



# 1. Introducing the *Whole Earth?* exhibition



<http://www.hardrainproject.com/>



University challenge

Religious studies

In June 2015, Pope Francis released a 192-page letter (encyclical) calling for a new partnership between religion and science to combat climate change. He called on people to get involved in "saving the planet". This was the Roman Catholic position, but everyone who believes in a supreme being and creator might be expected to want to cherish and preserve the creation of that supreme being. Surely it is time for religious studies courses to reconnect theology to biology, psychology, sociology, etc?

Changed human minds

Change, if it comes, will originate not through changing our technologies first, but through changing our minds: changing from judging success by ownership, switching from wanting more of everything to wanting the right amount, developing a sense of empathy for those suffering the brunt of climate change. It is tough enough to dematerialize our own mindsets. Perhaps the best beginning would be to imagine how pleasant sustainable development could be – without pollution, weather extremes, sprawl.

Stewart Brand of *Whole Earth Catalog* fame has argued that West Coast Americans take the environment more seriously not because they are more serious than most, but because they are hedonists. Cycling is more fun than riding in a car. Being out in nature is more pleasant so it is worth protecting that nature. Etc!

It is hard to change, but people who have done it – even those who have tried – have found it liberating, exhilarating and a lot of fun.

Many of us in the modern world have felt a sense of...

UNDP statistics show that the MDG goal of achieving universal primary education made impressive strides forward at the start of the decade, but that progress has slowed in many countries. The number of children out of schools has increased considerably. The school was founded by J. ... in India's ... shows how ... are ... When ... the ... age ... with ... each ... space, a ... facilities ...

## University challenge

### The new economics

There already is such a thing as the 'new economics' and there are already students at prestigious universities demanding that the economics faculty teach an economics that fulfils its real responsibility – answering how the world's population can live well without further draining the planet's resources. What answers does this new approach offer? What other answers might it offer?

Upload your contribution to the SOS YouTube channel via [SOSnetwork@outlook.com](mailto:SOSnetwork@outlook.com), or tweet #studentearth, or email via [www.hardrainproject.com/comment](http://www.hardrainproject.com/comment)

## Our fragmented world

"The Earth is one but the world is not," began the 1987 Brundtland Report, which invented and defined the concept of sustainable development. It meant that the Earth is one whole planetary ecosystem, but the world we have constructed on it is fragmented, with parts in opposition to other parts. Worse, the divisions we had constructed to manage our world were breaking apart:

"Until recently, the planet was a large world in which human activities and their effects were neatly compartmentalized within nations, within sectors (energy, agriculture, trade), and within broad areas of concern (environmental, economic, social). These compartments have begun to dissolve."

That dissolution has gained momentum over the three decades since the report was published, creating the unmanaged, mismanaged, conflicted world we live in today.

Conflicts exist even within "areas of concern". Environmental groups preach constantly that it is "one minute to midnight"; we are running out of time to "save the planet!" Yet these groups spend a disproportionate amount of time and energy fundraising and increasing their own 'market share' of members and funders. They do not unite to save our planet.

A premise of WHOLE EARTH? is that university students may be a bit more 'reasonable' and less mired in mumbo jumbo than the general public, or at least than their elders.

By joining together to articulate the kind of world they want to live in and campaigning for it, students can be a hugely powerful group, reaching across the fractures of their world and creating a political force for sustainable forms of human progress.



Governments cannot manage the new ways environmental resources, markets, energy sources and agriculture overlap and surge destructively together. Few voters understand such complex assemblages of issues. Many react with beliefs rather than fact-based opinions. The results of this are plain to see: political deadlock, religious strife, evidence-free policy-making and a bottomless pit of mumbo jumbo.

Illegally logged timber, Nigeria, destined for Europe. Local communities receive no income to compensate for the loss of forests around their villages.  
© Mark Edwards/Hard Rain Picture Library

## 2. *Whole Earth?* at CCCU





### Reviver the modern world

Modern life has been made possible by a host of inventions and innovations. But as we enjoy the benefits of modern life, we must also consider the impact of these innovations on the environment. One of the most significant impacts is the increase in energy consumption. This has led to a rise in greenhouse gas emissions, which is contributing to climate change. To reduce our carbon footprint, we need to focus on energy efficiency. This means using less energy to do the same amount of work. There are many ways to do this, from simple things like turning off lights when you leave a room to more complex things like installing energy-efficient appliances. By making these changes, we can help to reduce our impact on the environment and create a more sustainable future.

Energy efficiency is not just about saving money. It's also about saving the planet. By using less energy, we can reduce our carbon footprint and help to slow down climate change. This is important for the health of our planet and for the well-being of future generations. So, let's all do our part by being energy efficient. It's a small change, but it can make a big difference.

Energy efficiency is a key part of sustainable living. It helps to reduce our energy consumption and our carbon footprint. This is important for the health of our planet and for the well-being of future generations. So, let's all do our part by being energy efficient. It's a small change, but it can make a big difference.

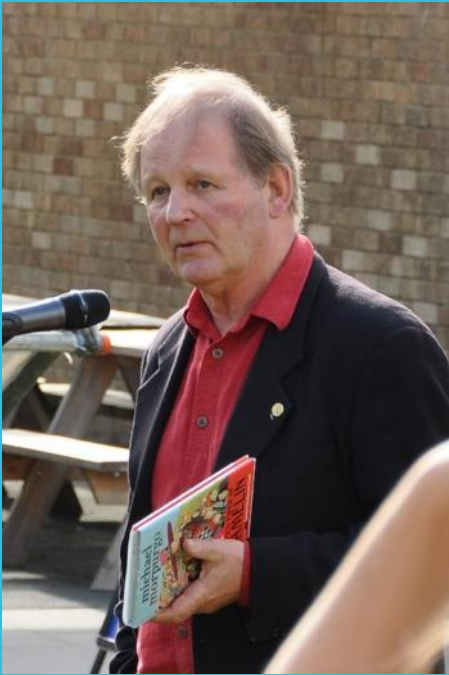
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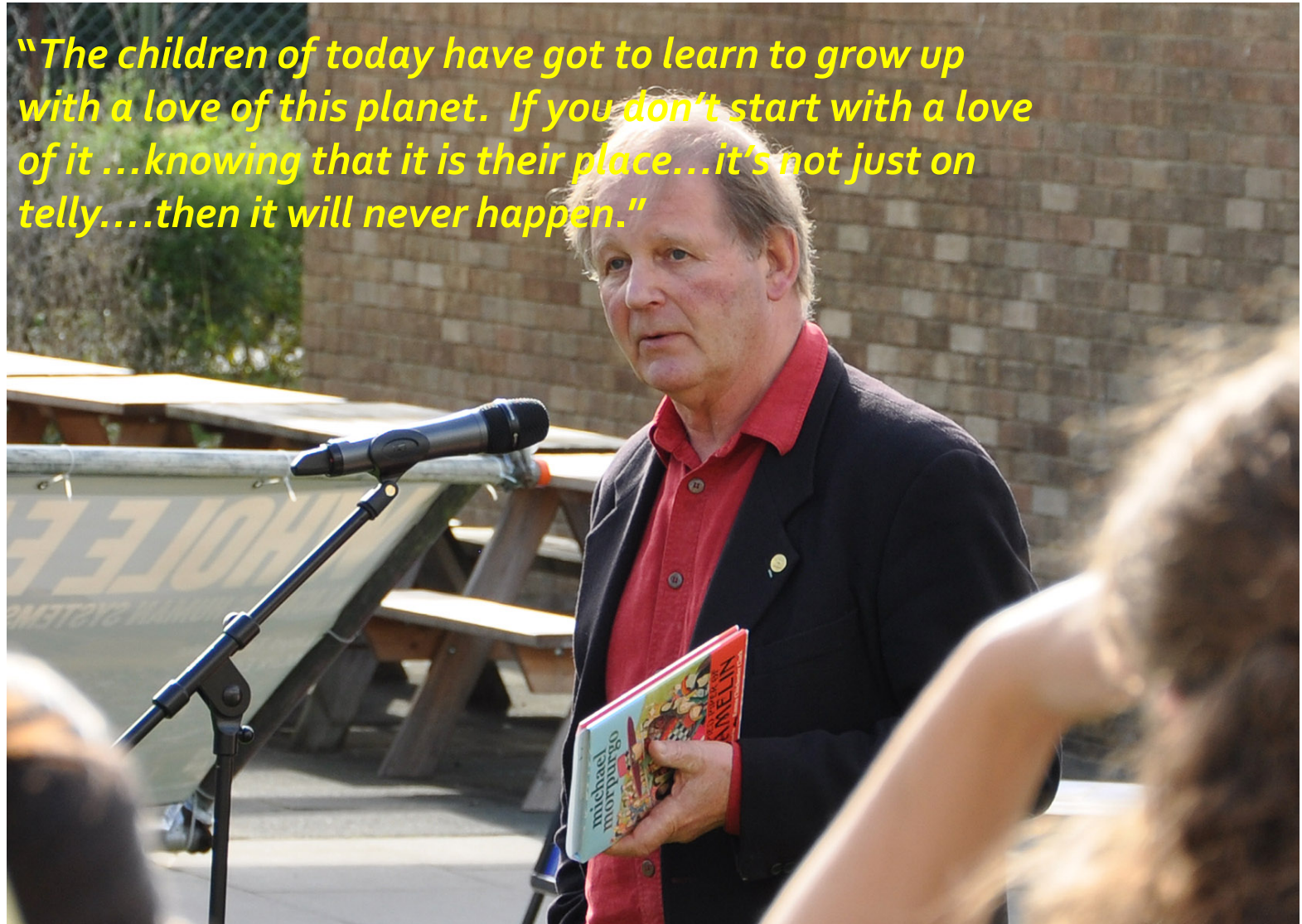
Switching your energy is just a matter of switching to solar. America's energy is not clean, it's dirty. It's made from coal, oil, and gas. It's polluting our air and water. It's costing us money. It's making us sick. It's making our planet hotter. It's making our future uncertain. So, let's switch to solar. It's clean. It's renewable. It's safe. It's the way forward. Don't let the sun go to waste. Go solar. go4.org

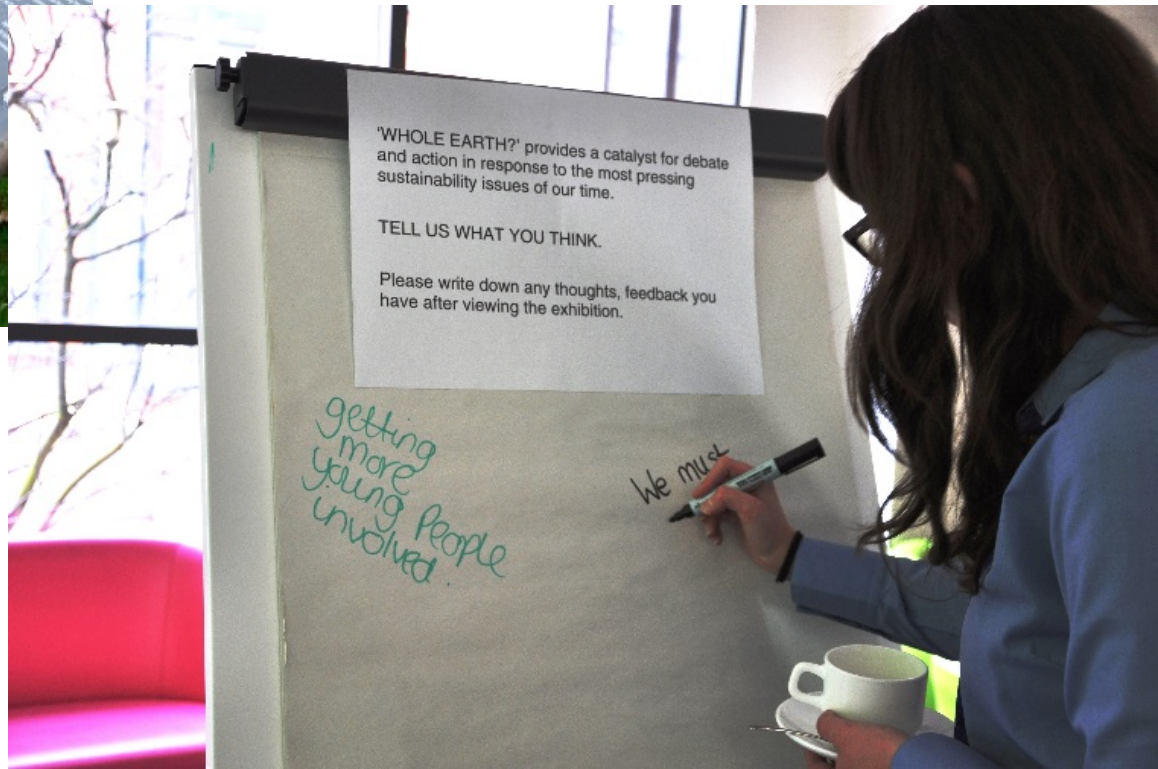
United Way contributes to the 501(c)(3) nonprofit United Way Foundation. For more information, visit [www.unitedway.org](http://www.unitedway.org) or call 1-800-989-6346.



Michael Morpurgo –  
*Whole Earth?* launch  
CCCU, 25<sup>th</sup>  
September 2015

*"The children of today have got to learn to grow up with a love of this planet. If you don't start with a love of it ...knowing that it is their place...it's not just on telly....then it will never happen."*







# inspire

Canterbury Christ Church Magazine

Autumn / 2015

## WHOLE EARTH?

THE UNIVERSITY CHALLENGE



 Canterbury  
Christ Church  
University

3 *Whole Earth?*  
Overseas



**INTERNATIONAL SYMPOSIUM ON  
SCIENCE EDUCATION AND SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT**

**22-23 JANUARY 2016**

SEMINAR HALL, DEPARTMENT OF BOTANY

DEPARTMENT OF BOTANY  
UNIVERSITY OF KERALA  
KARIAVATTOM

*Jointly Organized by*

HUMAN PROJECT  
CENTRE OF SAINT CHURCH UNIVERSITY  
KINGDOM.



Dr Lal C.A., Kerala  
University,  
Department of  
Botany, writes to  
Mark Edwards and  
Stephen Scoffham.


*"Dear Mark and Stephen*

*I am back home after a very fruitful week in Bangalore. Things worked in a fantastically more effective way than I anticipated. The banners were on display in three campuses. Beyond that I had the opportunity to directly address about 1250 students in nine spells of two hours each. I combined your stories with mine and Mark's video was viewed in state of the art auditoriums by all. (...). The feedback has been overwhelming. ."*



**Speak it**

Universities can help lead the communications battle to create a safe and secure future for all. Universities are the transition zone for all. Universities are the transition zone for all. Universities are the transition zone for all.




**SOS**

Students Organization (SOS) is a new, informal alliance of student organizations established by the National Union of Students in the UK. It will help organizations to collaborate on research, projects and communications to a global response to global challenges. It will help students understand the climate, follow the changes and have the right evidence to influence the decisions that need to be involved for change to happen.

"It is vital that students have a voice in the debate about our future. WHO2017 gives us the opportunity to connect students around the world and create a huge constituency to bolster the need for governments to take the difficult, long-term decisions underpin security for young people alive today and tomorrow."

Prof. Nicholas Adams



**IT'S SETTLED...**

**WE AGREE TO SIGN A PLEDGE TO HOLD ANOTHER MEETING TO CONSIDER CHANGING COURSE AT A DATE YET TO BE DETERMINED.**



## 4 Using *Whole Earth?* as a catalyst



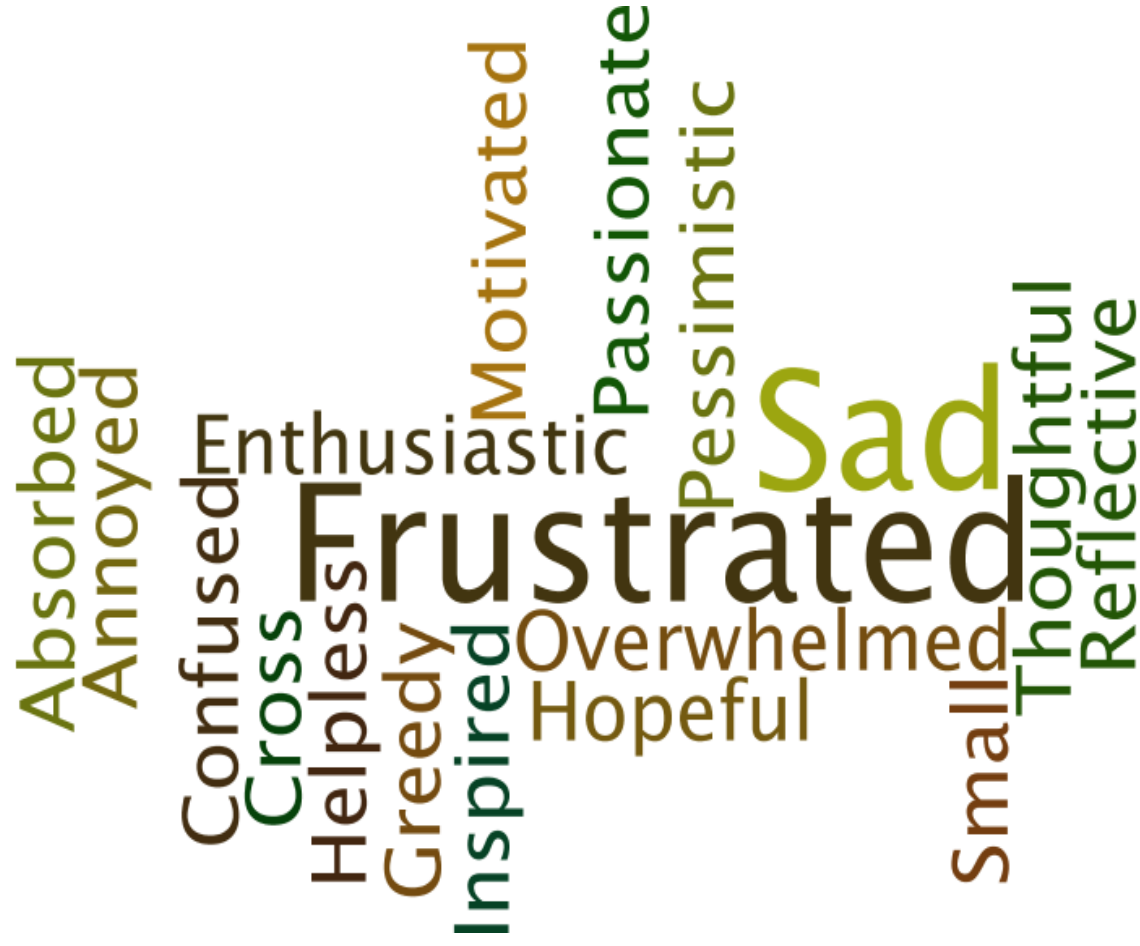
Media students FI project:  
Engaging with *Whole Earth?* –  
reflections & responses to WE

School of Teacher Education and  
Development students visit the  
exhibition

School of Law, Criminal Justice  
and Computing, FI project  
*“Criminology picks up the  
gauntlet”*: Responses to the  
*Whole Earth?* Exhibition”

School of Public Health,  
Midwifery and Social Work  
discussed exhibition in class,  
using photographs to provoke  
discussion.

The *Whole Earth?* exhibition provided a novel way of engaging staff, students and practitioners working within the field of Early Childhood with sustainability



A word cloud featuring various emotional and cognitive states. The most prominent word is 'Frustrated' in a large, dark green font. Other significant words include 'Sad' in a large, light green font, 'Motivated' in a medium-sized orange font, and 'Passionate' in a medium-sized dark green font. Other words include 'Absorbed', 'Annoyed', 'Confused', 'Cross', 'Helpless', 'Greedy', 'Inspired', 'Overwhelmed', 'Hopeful', 'Small', 'Thoughtful', and 'Reflective'. The words are arranged in a somewhat circular pattern, with some overlapping.





Debra Teasdale,  
Dean of the Faculty  
of Health and  
Wellbeing



Sadie Barton,  
Student, CCCU  
(*Whole Earth?*  
Newsletter, April  
2016)



*"Then I got it: the impact my plastic, my meat, my waste paper is making on the planet which is keeping me alive."*

*"What's good is that the exhibition doesn't just show problems, it shows what my generation – and universities – can do to bring about real change."*



5 Using *Whole Earth?* Further events



21st October  
2015  
EcoReligion:  
An Interfaith  
Council  
response to  
Whole Earth?



6th-7th July 2016  
Sustainability in  
Higher  
Education:  
Challenges and  
Opportunities



England Centre for  
Practice  
Development, &  
Art Therapists:  
'I would have been/  
could be amazing':  
A social justice  
oriented visual art  
rejoinder to Whole  
Earth.



## 6 Unexpected outcomes





8th March 2016  
Poetic response  
to *Whole Earth?*  
on International  
Women's Day





## A Wonder-Web of Life

*(refrain taken from Denise Levertov's poem Web)*

*What are we eating, what are we really eating?*

*I'm really eating grain, seeds, nourishment.*

*Where from?*

*A kitchen, farms, labour ... women.*

*Food at the family's table, plenty, blessed by gratitude*

*Food in the rich west, waste, bitter, poisoned by guilt*

*Women are food.*

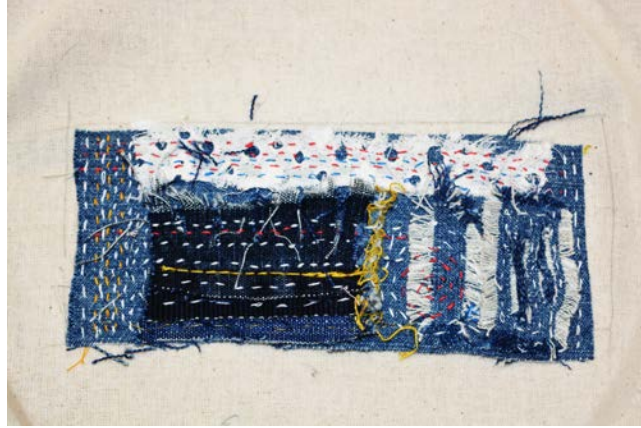
*all praise,*

*all praise to the*

*great web.*

Extract from poem collated by Vicky Field

*Whole Earth?*  
Many Hands  
Make a Lighter  
Future







# 7 Evaluating *Whole Earth?*'s impact

sustainability 



WHOLE EARTH? is brought to you  
by the Christ Church Sustainability  
team. **Tell us what you think...**

email: [sustainability@canterbury.ac.uk](mailto:sustainability@canterbury.ac.uk)



Tag us @CCCUSCN #whatllyoudonow



[facebook.com/cccusustainability](https://facebook.com/cccusustainability)

[blog:cccusustainability.wordpress.com/](http://blog:cccusustainability.wordpress.com/)

together  
small steps  
big changes

Can little me make a difference?



Yes!  
together  
we  
can



'WHOLE EARTH?' provides a catalyst for debate and action in response to the most pressing sustainability issues of our time.

TELL US WHAT YOU THINK.

Please write down any thoughts, feedback you have after viewing the exhibition.

- Thought provoking; sad; concerning + scary. But the world needs to stop it's wars as well!
- we have much work to do - and potentially little time to do it!



## Responses from the on-line survey about the value of *Whole Earth?*

*Helpful and well-presented.....*

*I wished it had been more creative.*

*Somewhat oversold – a load of posters on some scaffolding.....*

*Really thought provoking..... Gave me a wider perspective.*

*I hardly knew the exhibition was there. ....*

*A good range of information about active engagement in sustainability issues...*

*A waste of time and money.....*

*The photos were wonderful.....*

*Should have been a more central location.....*

*It sparked a lot of debate amongst the students.....*

*Both thought-provoking and empowering.....*

*Engaging.....*

*Not focused on local issues enough.....*

*Dull and simplistic.*

# Conclusions



Many of us in the modern world have felt a sense of loss, of missing something, in spite of our great technological gains, which should have made us feel that life has been enriched rather than impoverished. Can we live better with less?

Village celebration, Mauritania.  
© Mark Edwards/Art & Photo Library

# 8 Questions and answers

