



# KNOCK TWICE

25 modern folk tales for troubling times

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Cover illustration by Annes Stevens.

Biographies of the authors

# Modern folk tales for troubling times...

This book is part of an ongoing project of the *New Weather Institute*. Decades of campaigning for a better world still finds us all in troubling times, on the verge of potentially irreversible ecological decline and toxic social division. *Knock Twice* is our second volume of tales following *There was a Knock at the Door*, which was produced jointly with our friends at *Bread, Print & Roses*. In his foreword for the first collection, the author Philip Pullman wrote:

*“Stories are one of the most ancient and most effective ways of making sense of the world... When we try to live a good life in a world we seem to be simultaneously destroying, there is nothing more valuable or worth encouraging.”*

This book brings together earth scientists, experts on climate change and finance, archaeologists, writers, poets, economists, activists and artists. Each contributor works daily in different ways to make the world safe from systemic threats, but has become aware of the limits of simply throwing facts at people and hoping for change.

Instead, they've decided to take a new approach, and to try and tell some better stories. We thank them all very much for their creative gifts and being willing – in fact enthusiastic – to try something different. These tales are very modern, yet rooted in ancient story telling traditions.

We hope that when you knock, they will open doors...

# Biographies of the authors

**David Boyle** is a writer, ‘think-tanker’ and co-director of the New Weather Institute, and has been at the heart of numerous public policy innovations including the effort to develop co-production and introduce time banks to Britain as a critical element of public service reform. Reporting for the Cabinet Office, he was the coalition government’s independent reviewer on the Barriers to Public Service Choice (2012-13). His book *Authenticity: Brands, Fakes, Spin and the Lust for Real Life* (2003) helped put the search for authenticity on the agenda as a social phenomenon. *The Tyranny of Numbers* (2001) predicted the backlash against the government’s target culture. *Funny Money* (1999) launched the time banks movement in the UK. He also writes history books. Twitter: @davidboyle1958

**Corrina Cordon** was born in Essex and studied history at Sussex University. Her story was inspired by the bleakly beautiful Essex coastline and Canvey marshes that as a child she referred to as the end of the world. A ghostly Viking has been sighted there, looking for his ship to take him home. She lives in Forest Hill, London and works at Friends of the Earth, campaigning for a better, fairer world for people and the only planet we call home.

**David Cross** is an artist and academic, engaging with the contested ideal of sustainability in relation to visual culture. David graduated from St Martins School of Art in 1989. From 1991, when he left the Royal College of Art, until 2014, he collaborated with Matthew Cornford as Cornford & Cross, making context-specific art projects that addressed critical issues to activate social agency. Recognising a conflict between his internationalism and environmentalism, David stopped using jet travel in 2005. As a Reader at the University of the Arts London (UAL), David works for education as a public good, combining transformative pedagogy with constructive institutional critique.

**Jan Dean** is a poet-in-schools whose work appears in over a hundred anthologies. Her latest book is *The Penguin in Lost Property* – written with Roger Stevens (Macmillan). She is a National Poetry Day Ambassador for Forward Arts. Jan comes from the North West but now lives in Devon.

**Sarah Deco** is a storyteller based in London. She founded and co-runs the [North London Traditional Storytelling Circle](#). She tells stories in schools and libraries, at festivals and retreats and other diverse venues. She was for many years an art therapist and group psychotherapist working in the NHS in mental health. She now facilitates workshops in personal and professional development using story. She is particularly interested in exploring myth and story in relation to environmental awareness and social change.

Her website is: [www.sarahdecostoryteller.com](http://www.sarahdecostoryteller.com)

**Suki Ferguson** is a writer, facilitator, and social justice campaigner. She works at Quakers in Britain. She is the co-author of the New Economy Organiser Network Power & Privilege Guide. An advocate for the power of listening, she runs peer-to-peer coaching sets for campaigners, and

gives tarot readings to the conflicted and the curious. She tweets at @SukiKF.

**Hamish Fyfe** is Professor of the Arts and Society at the University of South Wales. He is Director of the George Ewart Evans Centre for Storytelling which is the only research European research centre with storytelling as its focus. He is an Associate Editor of the *Journal of Arts and Communities*.

**Jayati Ghosh** is one of the world's leading economists. She is professor of economics at Jawaharlal Nehru University, New Delhi, and the executive secretary of International Development Economics Associates ([www.networkideas.org](http://www.networkideas.org)). She writes for *The Guardian* in the UK, is a regular columnist for several Indian journals and newspapers, and author or editor of a dozen books, including, most recently, *Demonetisation Decoded: A critique of India's monetary experiment* (with Prabhat Patnaik and CP Chandrasekhar), and *The Elgar Handbook of Alternative Theories of Economic Development* (with Erik Reinert and Rainer Kattel). She has advised or been consulted by several governments and international organisation, is closely involved with a range of progressive organisations and social movements and has received six prizes for her research work. Her contribution to this volume is her first folk tale.

**Anna Jonsson** is a founder and member of the Swedish environmental cabaret group Sweet Dreams and a former chairwoman of Friends of the Earth Sweden. She works for the Green Party in the Swedish parliament, and has a passion for folk music, running in forests and the joy of play.

**Anthea Lawson** is a campaigner and writer. She started out as a journalist on *The Times'* graduate trainee scheme, until that got subverted by holidays on a permaculture project in Spain where she found some back copies of *New Internationalist* and started waking up. Since then she has been an arms trade researcher at Amnesty International and an aid worker in Sierra Leone. Until recently, she worked at the NGO Global Witness, where she published investigations showing how banks fuel corruption in poor countries, and launched an award-winning campaign for transparency in company ownership which, following hard graft by many other activists, resulted in new laws and an emerging global standard to prevent crooks and tax evaders hiding behind front companies. Now, she's still campaigning for environmental and economic justice, though she's also increasingly interested in the psychology of activism and social change.

**James Marriott** is an artist and activist who works as part of Platform ([www.platformlondon.org](http://www.platformlondon.org)). Within this collective he has co-created projects ranging from opera to a micro-hydro plant and co-authored several books including *The Oil Road: journeys from the Caspian Sea to the City of London* (Verso, 2012) with Mika Minio-Paluello. Platform's current work includes: *Unravelling the Carbon Web* focused on the human rights and environmental impacts of oil & gas corporations, in particular BP and Shell, and seeking to bring about their rapid closure.

**Ed Mayo** is Secretary General of Co-operatives UK, the national association for co-operative and mutual enterprise. He is chair of the participation charity Involve, a Vice-President of Co-operatives Europe and formerly Chief Executive of the New Economics Foundation (1992-2003).

Ed is author of *A Short History of Co-operation and Mutuality* (2017) and *Values: how to bring values to life in your business* (Routledge, 2016).

**Bill McGuire** is an academic, broadcaster and writer of popular science and speculative fiction. He is currently Professor Emeritus of Geophysical and Climate Hazards at University College London. Bill was a member of the UK Government Natural Hazard Working Group established in January 2005, in the wake of the Indian Ocean tsunami, and in 2010 a member of the Science Advisory Group in Emergencies (SAGE) addressing the Icelandic volcanic ash problem. In 2011, he was one of the authors of the IPCC report on climate change and extreme events. His non-fiction books include *A Guide to the End of the World: Everything you Never Wanted to Know* and *Surviving Armageddon: Solutions for a Threatened Planet* and, most recently, *Waking the Giant: How a Changing Climate Triggers Earthquakes, Tsunamis and Volcanoes*. He was consultant and main contributor to the BBC *Horizon* films; *Supervolcanoes* and *Megatsunami - Wave of Destruction*, as well as for the BBC drama, *Supervolcano*. Bill writes for *The Guardian*, *The Times* and *The Observer*, and is a regular contributor to *New Scientist* and *Focus* magazines. He recently co-presented *Project Doomsday* with comedy duo, Robin & Partridge. He lives, runs and grows fruit and veg in the Peak District, where he lives with his wife Anna, sons Jake and Fraser, and cats Dave, Toby and Cashew.

**Geoff Mead** is a storyteller, consultant, and the author of two books on the power of stories and storytelling: *Coming Home to Story: Storytelling Beyond Happily Ever After* (Vala, 2011) and *Telling the Story: The Heart and Soul of Successful Leadership* (Jossey-Bass, 2014). He is the founder of Narrative Leadership Associates, a consultancy focused on the use of storytelling for sustainable leadership. As an organizational consultant, keynote speaker and workshop leader, he has taken his work on narrative leadership onto the shopfloors and into the boardrooms of blue chip companies, charities, universities and government departments, for the past two decades ([www.narrativeleadership.com](http://www.narrativeleadership.com)). Geoff performs traditional stories at International Festivals and storytelling clubs and runs story-based workshops in the UK and as far afield as Spain, Canada and Japan.

**Marion Molteno** is a prize-winning novelist whose work is inspired by contact with people of many different backgrounds. She was a policy advisor to Save the Children, supporting projects with vulnerable children in countries across Asia and Africa, and she founded the South London Refugee Project. Her latest novel, *Uncertain Light*, is set among people who work in humanitarian crises. She is an active grandmother, and can't understand why all parents and grandparents aren't concerned about what kind of earth we are leaving to our children. She blogs at <http://www.marionmolteno.co.uk/my-blog/>

**Chris Nichols** lives on Dartmoor. He's a long distance walker. Having recently walked the 1,000 km of the South West Coast Path, he's about to walk the borders and coasts of Wales. When he's not walking or getting to know his baby granddaughter, he is co-founder of the collaborative hub [Gameshift.co.uk](http://Gameshift.co.uk).

**Jules Pretty** is author of the recently published *The East Country: Almanac Tales of Valley and Shore* (Cornell University Press, 2017), and previously *The Edge of Extinction* (2014), and the

award-winning *This Luminous Coast* (2011). He is Professor of Environment and Society at the University of Essex.

**Nick Robins** works in London on sustainable finance. He has been head of SRI funds at Henderson Global Investors and head of HSBC's Climate Change Centre. Currently he is co-director of UNEP's Inquiry into a Sustainable Financial System. He has published widely on sustainability issues and co-edited *Sustainable Investing: the Art of Long-term Performance*. He is also a historian and in 2006 published *The Corporation that Changed the World: How the East India Company Shaped the Modern Multinational*.

**Andrew Simms** is a political economist, environmentalist and co-founder of the New Weather Institute. He is a research associate at the Centre for Global Political Economy, University of Sussex, and a fellow of the New Economics Foundation (nef), where he was policy director for many years, running nef's work on climate change, energy and interdependence, and instigating their 'Great Transition' project. In work on local economies he coined the term 'clone towns' to describe the homogenization of high streets by chain stores. His books include *Tescopoly* and *Ecological Debt*. He co-authored *The New Economics, Eminent Corporations*, and the *Green New Deal*, devising the concept of 'ecological overshoot day' to illustrate when we begin living beyond our environmental means. Described by *New Scientist* magazine as "a master at joined-up progressive thinking", his latest book, *Cancel the Apocalypse: the New Path to Prosperity* is manifesto of new economic possibilities. Experimenting with new ways to tell the story of economics, he co-wrote, produced and performed *Neoliberalism: the Break-Up Tour*, with Sarah Woods. He tweets from: @andrewsimms\_uk

**Annes Stevens** (*cover designer*) is an artist and illustrator with over eight years professional experience in the field of visual development. She has worked for industry-leading games studios EA Games and Lionhead and on prominent titles such as 'Harry Potter', 'Monopoly', 'Trivial Pursuits' and the award-winning 'Fable' franchise. She likes to develop new ideas and explore new styles, pushing visuals in a direction yet to be explored. Most recently, she has been working with Karrot Animation as art director on the new CBeebies animation series *Sarah & Duck*.

**Katherine Trebeck** is Senior Researcher for Oxfam GB where she is exploring steps towards a new economic paradigm. Her forthcoming book *Arrival* (co-authored with Jeremy Williams) advocates shifting notions of development from growth to quality and distribution as we seek to 'make ourselves at home' in a wealthy world. When working for Oxfam Scotland, Katherine developed the Humankind Index, a measure of prosperity constructed through community consultation, which she has explained in a TedX talk. Katherine has a PhD in political science from the Australian National University, is an Honorary Professor at the University of the West of Scotland, Senior Visiting Research Fellow at the University of Strathclyde, and was part of GIZ's Global Leadership Academy's New Economic Paradigm project. Katherine was a Commissioner on the Fairer Fife Commission, sits on WWF Scotland's Low Carbon Infrastructure Task Force, and is Rapporteur for Club de Madrid's Working Group on Environmental Sustainability and Shared Societies.

**Leslie Van Gelder** is an archaeologist and writer living in the Rees Valley of New Zealand. She

is the author of *Weaving a Way Home* and *The Archaeology of Love*. Her work focuses on the power of place in emotional landscapes. Her archaeological work in prehistoric finger flutings has helped to shed light on the lives of people who left their marks in caves twenty thousand years ago.

**Sarah Woods** is a writer, performer, activist and facilitator whose work has been produced by companies including the RSC, Hampstead, Soho Theatre and the BBC, along with regional theatres and touring companies. She works with communities, campaigns, scientists and specialists. Current work includes *Bordered* for BBC Radio 4, about human rights and the migrant crisis, a new opera *Lazarus* for Birmingham Opera, and The Centre for Alternative Technology's *Zero Carbon: Making it Happen* report. Sarah is narrative artist with Cardboard Citizens, who make theatre with and for homeless people. She teaches playwriting at Manchester University and is a Wales Green Hero.

### **New Weather Institute**

We are a co-operative think-tank, focused on forecasting change and making the weather. We were created to accelerate the rapid transition to a fair economy that thrives within planetary boundaries. We bring together radical thinkers, scientists, economists, makers, artists and activists to find, design and advocate ways of working and living that are more humane, reasonable and effective.

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