

DOUGALD HINE

## It's the end of the world

(as we know it)

When our parents were young, people were very excited about the future. By the year 2011, they said, we would have flying cars and go on holiday to the moon. Not everyone believed that, but it didn't sound silly.

We don't have flying cars, but we do have amazing new technologies like computers and mobile phones. Yet today very few people are excited about the future. In fact, lots of people are afraid of it. They try not to think about it very much.

The biggest reasons people are afraid are to do with the environment. Huge numbers of species go extinct every year because of human activities. Climate change threatens to destroy low-lying countries like Bangladesh and make many parts of the world harder to live in. The oil which we use to fuel our cars, grow our food and make all kinds of products is becoming harder to find and more expensive.

For all these reasons, people don't like to think about the future as much as they used to do. On the one hand, they find it hard to believe that anything will really change, so they imagine that the future will be just the same as today. On the other hand, they are afraid that we can't go on living like this, so the future will be the end of the world as we know it.

But what if this is true? "The end of the world as we know it" is not the same thing as "the end of the world." We will still be here and we will go on finding ways to make life meaningful, even if we have lost many things which we used to take for granted.

It's time to start talking to each other about what this would be like and how we could make the best of it.

The Dark Mountain Project

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