

## **Film Review – The 11<sup>th</sup> Hour – The Village Hall, Littleham - October 7<sup>th</sup> 2008-10-08**

I came away from this screening feeling bruised and battered having sat through what seemed like hours of interminable verbal assault. Not bad language you understand but the result of the Hollywood hand being applied to an otherwise, albeit unpalatable, important subject – Global Warming.

After an introduction of staccato film bites showing perhaps half a second of major *natural* disasters, implying that they were the sole result of Global Warming, which, if you believe the Bible and other historical sources that cite regular *natural* calamities, is a difficult premise to take on board. The cinematic tricks diminished leaving the senses reeling and the head aching from the action and the noise. When they finally ceased there followed statement after statement on the various contributory causes of Global Warming from apparently erudite academics mainly from the USA. In itself an irritation when it is remembered that the rest of the world's academic community have been ringing the warning bells for half a century or more whilst the US slept. These sound bites went on and on and on requiring a level of concentration from the viewer last felt in yours truly when he crossed a 1000 foot deep ravine in Sumatra on a 4 inch wide bridge!

I was determined not to switch off and was glad I didn't. Just occasionally there was relief from the persistent unloading of warnings of doom and disaster. These were the amazing statistics and convincingly presented evidence that emanated from the screen. For example, did you know that the Americans spend more on lawn care than the whole of the Indian continent's GDP! Now that is consumerism supreme. I was also pleased to be introduced to a Churchillian quote regarding the Americans. He apparently said "The Americans always get it right, but not before they've tried everything else first". Quite so.

Furthermore, continuing the positive tone, I did find the contributions of Oren Lyons, Faithkeeper of the Onondaga Nation of the Iroquois Confederacy, to be very relevant. I was struck by his unselfish concern for the Earth, particularly his view that the Earth would be fine and that it would survive, irrespective of what happened to mankind. His view being that mankind, through their foolishness, may very well become extinct but we shouldn't worry too much about the Earth as it will recover in time. He painted the beautiful picture of an unadulterated earth of which man was no longer part.

The introduction to the film by a lady whose name I did not hear and who apparently represented some organisation keen to publicise the Global Warming message whose name I don't believe was stated, suggested that it showed the way in which small communities could take their own action and thru these small beginnings across the globe would grow a global solution. As it turned out very little of the film alluded to this expectation that I had. In fact there was nothing that could have helped a small community like Littleham to take any steps to make a difference. Whilst there were oblique references to wind, sea, solar power and other so called green alternatives to energy generation, there were no practical suggestions as to how these could be applied.

Sadly, I struggle to find any more positive comment to say about the experience, other than perhaps to remark that I wasn't disappointed in the contribution from David Suzuki, the environmental scientist. Apart from looking more and more like Confucious, his contribution was easy on the ear and the brain, demanding as it always does, further thought and consideration.

I know it is controversial, but where was any reference to nuclear power? Why was there no detail about the "alternatives" that were so graphically presented such as the low energy train? We saw it but we are no wiser as to how we get one or build one.

Apart from my patently obvious dislike for the film's content because of its failure to deliver, as a piece of manipulative cinema I suppose it might have succeeded in a perverse way – I can imagine many people coming from a showing, assuming they stayed the distance, wanting to take the easy way out and end it all. Not quite what we want or indeed, what I suspect the producers intended either.

Now had they suggested a community wind turbine of sufficient capacity to put into the grid the equivalent number of kilowatts to those that which we in Littleham take out, then I think I and many others might have come away with something constructive to think, talk and act upon. If they had talked about electrolyzers for our cars that would halve the output of carbon dioxide and other noxious pollutants from our vehicles exhausts, then I believe it would have sparked off some interest. If there had been suggestions for communities regarding heat exchangers using low grade terrestrial heat to warm public buildings, then we might have thought that there was something that we as a small community or as individuals might do to make our contribution to a remedy. But sadly there was none of this – or did I go to sleep?

**Sir Lorn Stakes**  
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