



Press Release for Gazette What's On section

Flyer attached

The Age of Stupid

'The Age Of Stupid', the new cinema documentary from the Director of 'McLibel' and the Producer of the Oscar-winning 'One Day In September', is coming to the Cossham Hall on Friday June 19th. This enormously ambitious drama-documentary-animation hybrid stars Oscar-nominated Pete Postlethwaite as an old man living in the devastated world of 2055, watching "archive" footage from 2008 and asking: why didn't we stop climate change while we had the chance?

Runaway climate change has ravaged the planet by 2055. Pete plays the founder of The Global Archive, a storage facility located in the (now melted) Arctic, preserving all of humanity's achievements in the hope that the planet might one day be habitable again. Or that intelligent life may arrive and make use of all that we've achieved. He pulls together clips of "archive" news and documentary from 1950 - 2008 to build a message showing what went wrong and why. He focuses on six human stories:

- **Alvin Duvernay**, is a paleontologist helping Shell find more oil off the coast of New Orleans. He also rescued more than 100 people after Hurricane Katrina, which, by 2055, is well known as one of the first "major climate change events".
- **Jeh Wadia** in Mumbai aims to start-up a new low-cost airline and gets a million Indians flying.
- **Layefa Malemi** lives in absolute poverty in a small village in Nigeria from which Shell extracts tens of millions of dollars worth of oil every week. She dreams of becoming a doctor, but must fish in the oil-infested waters for four years to raise the funds.
- **Jamila Bayyoud**, aged 8, is an Iraqi refugee living on the streets of Jordan after her home was destroyed - and father killed - during the US-led invasion of 2003. She's trying to help her elder brother make it across the border to safety.
- **Piers Guy** is a windfarm developer from Cornwall fighting the NIMBYs of Middle England.
- 82-year-old French mountain guide

Fernand Pareau has witnessed his beloved Alpine glaciers melt by 150 metres.

Following the film, there will be the opportunity to ask questions of a distinguished panel: Steve Webb MP, Paul Ashford (member of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change), Ian Page (member of the International Futures Forum), Chris Sunderland (Agora).

Doors open 7.15, film show at 7.45pm, admission £3. Refreshments available. Film showing organised by Sustainable Thornbury with the help of the Thornbury Film Club.

Note to Editor:

Further information about the film can be found on the website:
http://www.ageofstupid.net/pr_resources. Quotes from the film are below.

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The Archivist (Pete Postlethwaite): “We could have saved ourselves, but we didn’t. It’s amazing. What state of mind were we in, to face extinction and simply shrug it off?”

The Archivist: “Throughout our history, the deal was we left the world in a slightly better place than we found it. That was progress. The wheel, the rule of law, penicillin. It was our covenant with our children and grandchildren.”

The Archivist: “It’s strange, watching these film fragments. It’s like looking through binoculars observing people on a far off beach. Running around in circles, fixated on the small area of sand beneath their feet, as a tsunami races towards them.

The Archivist: “We wouldn’t be the first life form to make itself extinct. But what would be unique about us is that we did it knowingly. What does that say about us?”

The Guardian: “The first successful dramatisation of climate change to reach the big screen.

