

The Children and the Helm of Russia

# Saving Our Home on The Blue Planet

With Gran Russ, Walter, Winnie, Peter's Botik



and

## A Paddle for Life

David W. Train

Former Olympic Coach

## **Christmas Letter to President Putin**

**Dear President Putin,**

### **Soft Power: The Sochi Paddle for Life and Peter's Botik.**

**"This Christmas we can be proud of how as a country we honour Christian values of giving, sharing and caring."**

**David Cameron. Tweet. 22nd December 2014**

**I was very interested to see that Forbes made you the most powerful person on our planet in 2014, with David Cameron 10th, saying that you "have the world in your hands". You do indeed have the world in your hands and with the set of soft power tools that we have invented in the Heart of England I hope that you will use that power to bring the world together in peace.**

**In the spirit of Christmas, expressed by David Cameron in his Christmas tweet, I send you a gift of a story showing how you can use the very best of Russian soft power to tackle the greatest problem facing humanity today.**

**On the front cover of the book is a drawing of you at the helm of the "Spirit of Peter's Botik and Energy Climate Era", with the children of Russia as the crew. Peter's Botik is one of Russia's most sacred artefacts. Originally it was called the Saint Nicholas, who is the patron saint of children and whose life led to the creation of Father Christmas.**

**As you will know, one story has it that the small boat Saint Nicholas was presented to Czar Ivan the Terrible of Russia by Elizabeth 1st of England. It was found rotting in a shed, renovated by Peter the Great and used by him to learn to sail. It became the small seed from which grew the mighty Russian naval fleet.**

**What we need now if we are to "Save Our Home on the Blue Planet" is not the hard concentrated power of warships but the soft power of a great idea, expressed through many small boats, spread across our planet. We now need a new world fleet to bring all the world on board and working together to tackle humanity's greatest problem, of man made climate change and I believe, because you are in pole position to act at this time in history, that the flagship should be the "Spirit of Peter's Botik and Energy Climate Change".**

**I believe that the “Spirit of Peter’s Botik and Energy Climate Change” can be Russia’s greatest soft power gift to the world and I hope that you will accept it, together with all the other ideas from the Heart of England, as a gift from the children and helms of Fladbury, and use them to set the world on a new course.**

**All it then needs is for you, in the spirit of giving and sharing, to give the ideas to other world leaders, starting with President Xi for China, then to Angela Merkel, who is seen as the “Queen” of the EU, and then to President Obama and other world leaders.**

**I hope that you enjoy the story and that you will see that it too can be used as a soft power gift from Russia to the world. I also hope that you will, in the true spirit of the Sochi Olympics “take part”. All the children of the world will know the story of the Sochi Paddle for Life and Peter’s Botik.**

**All the children of the world will know the part that Russia played in “Saving Our Home on the Blue Planet”. All the children of the world, for generations to come, will remember the part that Russia played in bringing long term peace to the world and love her for it. The world will win a golden future.**

**My very best wishes for the New Year, to you, and all the children and people of Russia.**

**Good paddling,**

**David W. Train**

**President Fladbury Paddle Club. Former Olympic canoe coach.**



Посольство Российской Федерации  
в Великобритании

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22 September 2014

N 1502

Dear David,

Thank you for bringing the Sochi Paddle for Life for me to sign. I will be delighted to visit Worcestershire to name and launch the "Spirit of Peter's Botik and Energy Climate Era" when it is ready.

I had not realised that "Peter's Botik" was designed in England. It is a great connection between Russia and England and a great story to tell in this "The Year of Culture" in the United Kingdom.

We really appreciate all that you are doing to normalise and enhance the relationship between our countries. I look forward to visiting Worcestershire.

Sincerely yours,

Sergey Nalobin  
Head, the Bilateral Relations Section

Mr David W. Train  
Glen Villa, Fladbury  
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**The Children and the Helm of Russia**

# **Saving Our Home on The Blue Planet**

**With Walter, Winnie, the Grans**

**A Bell Boat**

**and**

# **A Paddle for Life**

**David W. Train**

**Former Olympic Coach**

**To celebrate the Year of Russian Culture in England 2014**

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## **The Problems of the Blue Planet**

**Far away in a universe called Asunder, lived a flying tortoise called *Gran Main*.**

**Gran Main was the grandmother of all Earth, which from far away looked like a blue globe and which Gran Main called the Blue Planet. Life on the Blue Planet only existed because of the water. So, she was called *Main* because, since ancient times, the word for all the oceans and seas of the world had been the *Main*.**

**She was a very special tortoise, with swallow like wings. Whenever she was needed, she could fly swiftly to the Blue Planet.**

**Gran Main was very, very wise. She had a blue head, blue body, and a pure white bell-shaped shell with her name on it in blue. Her wings were pure white. She had brown eyes.**

**Gran Main's purpose was to care for all life on the Blue Planet and to do that she had to care for all the precious water. She cared for the streams, the rivers, the seas, the clouds and the ice and snow. And she made sure that there was always the right amount of each so that life could go on.**

**Humans were very clever and over many centuries had created their home in the atmosphere of the Blue Planet. She tried to see that the humans of the Blue Planet always looked after it and kept the air, the rivers and the seas clean, so that all the animals and plants could grow together in peace.**

**However, Gran Main noticed from far, far away that more and more people were spreading over the Blue Planet. The humans were taking more and more space for themselves, and the other animals and plants, with less space to live, were dying.**

**As more and more humans spread across the Blue Planet, they made more and more rubbish. They were making the rivers, the sea and the air dirty. The people threw rubbish into the rivers and the sea, and they made the air dirty with the gases from their factories and cars.**

**Some of the gases were like a blanket around the Blue Planet and they trapped in the heat from the Sun. The Blue Planet was slowly getting warmer and the ice was melting, changing the balance between the ice, the sea water, the river water**

and the clouds. And, if that balance was wrong then life would be very different on the Blue Planet. The sea levels would rise and there would be less fresh water to drink and less land to grow food on.

The humans of the Blue Planet had problems and with less water to drink and less land to grow food on, the problems were becoming greater and greater. Instead of working together to solve these problems, the people of the Blue Planet were always going to war, fighting and bombing each other to decide who knew the best way to do things on the Blue Planet. Somehow the humans had to learn how how to work together to recreate the world they lived in.

As the years went by, Gran Main started to worry more and more. She worried so much that she could hardly sleep at night.

She knew, of course, that there would always be problems to solve, and that as they were solved then new problems would arise to be solved and that, when they were solved, there would again be new problems to solve. Problems would go on for ever and ever, but there had to be a better way for the people to solve them than fighting and bombing each other. And, with the Blue Planet getting hotter and hotter, as the climate changed, as the sea levels rose and drinking water became scarcer and scarcer, it was becoming more and more important to find a way.

When Gran Main was awake she thought and thought about how she could bring the people of the Blue Planet together to solve their problems. How could she make the people of the Blue Planet think about their great problems, like climate change, clean energy and water shortage, and set out to solve them without going to war and fighting each other and killing each other with bombs all the time? What could she do?

## **An Idea**

Gran Main had an idea. Away in Asunder, she made a very special tortoise and a very special rabbit. Then she flew to the Blue Planet with the very special tortoise and the very special rabbit. On the way there she stopped on the Moon and with the tortoise and rabbit looked at the Blue Planet. From the Moon the Blue Planet looked like a very fragile beautiful blue globe set against the blackness of space.

The three sat on the Moon.



**“What’s the Blue Planet made of?” asked the tortoise.**

**Gran Main spoke. “Soon you will land on an island on the Blue Planet and there you will find out what it is made of, but the most important thing of all is water, for without water there would be no life at all. The Blue Planet looks blue from the Moon because of all that wonderful water. There is now a great problem with the precious water on Earth and that is why I am taking you there.**

**“One hundred and fifty years ago, on an island called the Britain, in Europe, the engineers discovered how to power machines with coal. They made many things for the world, they built ships and railways and sent them around the world. They started the “Industrial Revolution” in Europe and were followed by America. Together, Europe and America are called the West.**

**“Over the years things became better and better for the people of the West, but as they burned the coal it gave off a gas that stayed high in the atmosphere for hundreds of years. The gases act like a blanket around the planet and the planet slowly became warmer and warmer.**

**“One day China and the East will have their Industrial Revolution and the planet will get even hotter as they burn more and more coal. More and more industry takes more and more of the drinking water needed for humans animals and plants to survive and, if it gets too hot, humans and many animals will not be able to live. We must find a way to help before the humans destroy the wonderful home they have created. It will be a long journey of discovery.**

**“The European people started the Industrial Revolution and the problem of putting the gases into the atmosphere. They, above all others in the world, have a duty to find a way to solve the problem and share the ideas with the rest of the world. You must help them find a way.”**

**“ I am going to take you to a place in Europe where the first passenger railway, powered by coal was started. It’s called Stockton, in the Tees Valley and is a great symbol of the Industrial Revolution. It’s a place on its own, a land “asunder”, which means “apart from”, within England, which is a country within Britain. From there, I hope that you will learn about life in the West and the world so that we can find a way for the world to solve this great problem and then we will be able to share it with China and the East when they have their Industrial Revolution.**

Gran Main picked up the tortoise and the rabbit and swooped down to the Blue Planet. They landed in the backyard of a small house in Stockton in the Tees Valley, close to where the first passenger railway started. The man and woman who owned the house with the backyard were called George and Mary. They were very surprised when they discovered the tortoise and the rabbit in their shed.

The tortoise was very unusual. He was the colours of the Olympic rings. He had a bell-shaped shell, which was red, yellow and blue, a green body and head, and he had white eyes. On the yellow of his shell and around it were the letters 'WWW' in black. He had no wings because he was made by Gran Main to move slowly around the Blue Planet, so that he would slowly discover all about it.

The rabbit was very unusual. She was the colours of the Olympic rings. She had a bell-shaped body which was red, yellow and blue. Her legs and head were green, and she had a white tail and brown eyes. On the yellow of her body and around it were the letters 'WWW' in black. Her ears were red on the outside and yellow on the inside. They pointed to the sky like a V for *Victory* sign.

“What shall we call them?” asked George.

“They both have WWW on them, so their names must start with W. Let’s call the tortoise Walter and the hare we shall call Winnie,” said Mary.

George and Mary took them into their home, where they fostered Walter and Winnie until they were old enough to look after themselves on the Blue Planet.

## War and Peace

When Walter and Winnie were very young and still living with George and Mary, Britain went to war with Germany, a great country in the middle of Europe. Britain was led by a man called Winston Churchill - some called him Winnie. Wherever he went he held two fingers in the air making a V for Victory, like that made by Winnie’s ears. It inspired all the people to “work together”.

George had to go away to fight. Walter and Winnie did not see him for six long years. Mary looked after Walter and Winnie, together with her other children. It was very hard for her. There was little food. One night, the German planes

dropped bombs on Stockton. Some of their friends in the house next door to where they lived were killed. Germany attacked Russia and in the East, Japan attacked China and like the people of the United Kingdom and Russia, the people of China suffered bombing and many people were killed. It was a time of world terror which lived with Walter and Winnie for the rest of their lives.

The people of Russia joined the war and later the United States of America and helped the United Kingdom and China. It was terrible for all the people, but especially for the people of Russia where many many millions of people were killed.

Eventually the war stopped and George came home. He became a chimney sweep. At that time there were many chimneys to clean because all the homes were heated with coal fires. They made the air outside dirty and the chimneys very dirty. George always took away every speck of soot and left the houses so clean that he was called *Mr Spotless* . It meant that he always had many sacks of soot to take to the rubbish tip.

Walter and Winnie often helped George by taking the soot to the rubbish tip for him. The rubbish tip was a long way from where they lived, and there was a great hill to climb on the way. The only way to get to the top was by working together. So, as they climbed the hill, they shouted: ‘Pull together! Pull together! Pull together!’

Winnie loved her home in Stockton in the Tees Valley and throughout her long life only once travelled outside of the island. She kept a lovely home for all her children, all her grandchildren, and all her great grandchildren, so that they would come to visit her. All the human children loved her, and she cared for them all. When the children felt unhappy because they hadn’t enough money to buy the things they wanted, she told them, “It’s nice to buy things but you do not need to buy things to be happy. Happiness is inside you, and you get it by helping others. If you do your best to help others each day, you will always be happy.”

Walter loved his home in Stockton in the Tees Valley. He also loved sport, especially watersports. Walter loved making things and doing things. He made canoes and kayaks from wood and canvas and he took part in paddlesport.

It was in the Tees Valley, in the land asunder, that Winnie and Walter started to learn the good and bad things about life on the Blue Planet. But Walter was a



restless tortoise and wanted to see the world and learn all about it. He moved all around England and finally to Fladbury, a small village between Evesham and Pershore, in the very middle of England.

## **The Bell Boat**

Fladbury lies in the Heart of England, on the banks of the River Avon between Evesham and Pershore, near to the birthplace of the famous poet and playwright, William Shakespeare. Like Winnie, Walter had children and grandchildren. When the children felt unhappy because they had not enough money to buy the things they wanted, Walter told them: “It’s nice to buy things but you do not need to buy things to be happy. Happiness is inside you, and you get more and more of it by helping others. If you do your best to help others each day you will always be happy. And you also get more and more happiness by making things, doing things, and thinking.”

There, in Fladbury on the Avon, Walter met Mr Good, a teacher, who asked Walter to help him with the children. “If the leaders and adults don’t inspire and help the children to do good things,” said Mr Good, “then our children get into trouble and start destroying things and other people lead them into taking drugs. If you could inspire and help them to paddle, I would be very happy. It will really help our society.”

Walter wanted to help society in Fladbury, in Europe and across the globe. He knew that if the problems of the world were to be solved in a peaceful way then all the people of the Blue Planet had to pull together. He often wondered how to do it. Then, by chance, the people of China sent three dragon boats to England to race in London, the capital city. With the dragon boats came the story of how dragon boat racing had started over two thousand years before, to celebrate the life of Qu Yuan, who, like Shakespeare in England, was China’s greatest poet.

Walter realised that there was a way to help people from the East and West to pull together to solve the great problems of Earth. All he had to do was to make a special boat that everyone in the world would be happy to go in and, in time, the boat and the story of pulling together would spread around the Blue Planet. So he made a special team boat for the children so that they would learn how to work together.

The boat had twin hulls and was very stable, like the outrigger canoes of Hawaii, so that no-one was frightened to go on board. Walter called it a “bell boat”.\* When he and Mr Good took the children out on the boat they asked Walter why he had called it a bell boat. Walter always replied, “I called it a bell boat so that you would ask me why? It is of course the shape of my shell.”

Then Walter explained why his shape was very important. It was the very first step in understanding statistics, which was very important in understanding science, engineering and technology, which were all very important for children to learn about if they were to solve the great problem of global warming, the climate change that went with it and the problems of water shortage. Mr Good then explained to the children what Walter’s shape meant. The children had taken their first step in maths and that made Walter feel very happy, for they had taken a great step in making the Blue Planet fit for them to live in.

The first boat was called the “Spirit of Fladbury and Energy Climate Era” with the name Fladbury on the port hull and Energy Climate Era on the starboard hull.

The bell boat had three flagpoles. On the bow flagpole were two flags. The top flag on the bow flag staff represented the letter “W” and as a single flag meant, “Urgent Medical Attention Needed”. The lower flag represented the letter “E” and as a single flag meant “Changing Course to Starboard”.

The rear flag was the flag of Fladbury. The centre flag was that of the United Nations.

Thus, the signalling flags spell out the message that “WE, the crew of Fladbury and Energy Climate Era, recognising that our Home on the Blue Planet is in need of urgent medical attention, are changing course to starboard to avoid a collision, and inspiring the rest of the world to join us.”

The bell boats were Walter’s schools on the water and, because they were safe for people of all ages, everyone could go on them. They brought people together and they all learned the meaning of the special shape. Walter hoped his bell boat would help to stop war and show the people of the Blue Planet how to solve their problems in peace.

\* See chapter from Walter’s Festivals. Page 43 in this book.

## **A Paddle for Life**

**One evening, when Walter was watching TV, he saw the Speaker of the British Parliament telling a story to children. The Parliament is called the “Mother of Parliaments” because it is the oldest in the world. In it, the members sit on benches facing each other and on the carpet separating the benches are two red lines.**

**The Speaker explained to the children that the lines were two sword lengths apart and were first put there many years ago when the members of parliament carried swords with them. They had a rule that in debate they could not cross the red line. It was a rule to stop them pulling out their swords and killing each other.**

**As Walter listened to the Speaker, he realised that he could create a story for the children using a sword and shield. So he made a wooden sword and shield for the children and then made a paddle by turning the shield upside down, joining it to the sword, and cutting off the sword handle. He called it a “Paddle for Life”. Walter made all the paddles the shape of the Chinese dragon boat paddle because the idea of the bell boat came from the Chinese dragon boat. They were made from Russian Birch plywood and Russian pine.**

**Walter asked the children to make paddles and then drew designs on them. Their parents and leaders of the community signed the children’s paddles, which meant that everyone in the community had a chance to take part. Wood contains carbon and, when trees grow, they take carbon dioxide, the gas causing global warming, out of the atmosphere. The children pledged to keep their paddles for life and planted trees to replace, twice over, the wood they had used. The children had taken their first step in saving the atmosphere, their home on the Blue Planet.**

**It was very important that the leaders of Britain and the European Union, supported what the children were doing, so Walter asked the prime minister, the Speaker and many other leaders to sign a paddle for life to be used as the perpetual trophy for the Fladbury-Main Race for the Blue Planet. They were all delighted to take part.**

**So now the children had a ‘school on the water’, the bell boat, through which they had taken the first step in learning about statistics and they had a paddle**



for life which was their first step in solving the problem of global climate change. They went on many voyages with Walter and Mr Good and as they did they learned more and more about life and how to make their home on the Blue Planet a better place for all life. Sometimes, they took their parents and leaders of the community with them to share with them what they were learning. They learned together.

Walter, Mr Good and the children even made a large Chinese paddle for life. It was three metres high. They attached to it, two small signalling flags and two large flags, one for China and one for Europe. The first of the small flags was for the letter 'W' and also meant 'Urgent Medical Attention Needed'. The second small flag was for the letter 'E' and meant 'Changing Course to the Right'. On the large paddle it said 'Saving Our Home the Blue Planet with a Paddle for Life'.

They used the large Chinese dragon boat paddle at the start of their voyages and races and took it to the highest peaks of Britain to signal to all the people that 'WE' have an urgent problem and must change our ways and that Britain, inspired by a story from China, have a way of bringing all on board to solve the problem, with a "Paddle for Life".

## **Walter's School**

Walter and Mr Good often took the leaders, the teachers, the parents and the children on voyages on the river on the bell boats, their school on the water. As they paddled, the people often saw the rubbish that they made floating down the river and getting caught in the trees. As they were in team boats, they talked about the problems together, and then decided to clean up the river and the river banks.

There was also a great landfill site near to the Avon which they could see as they went to the river. They called it 'Rubbish Mountain' and it grew bigger and bigger each day, so all the people knew about the great problem caused by making more and more rubbish, because they saw it every day.

Out on the bell boat, the leaders, the children, the parents and the teachers talked about how to make less rubbish. Slowly they recycled more and more of their rubbish and less and less went on to Rubbish Mountain. To celebrate what they had done, each year they held bell boat races which helped to keep them

working together. They called them the Main Regattas for Blue Planet because of the importance of the Main - the oceans and seas of the Blue Planet.

Walter also trained the children in the village to become very fit themselves, by bell boating, running, cycling, swimming, kayaking and canoeing, and they became so good that some of them went to the Olympic Games. His favourite saying was, “Well Done!” The children became happier and happier as they made their paddles for life, went out in the bell boat and took part in sport. Because the children did so well, Walter became an Olympic coach for canoe racing and travelled the world with his paddlers. He went to Olympics after Olympics, to Los Angeles, Seoul, Barcelona and Atlanta and his paddlers went on to compete in Sydney, Athens, Beijing and London.

Walter was very happy taking the young people to the Olympics, but he was even happier when he took people paddling in his bell boats with their paddle for life. It was the first step in going to the Olympic heights. It was the first step in going to the heights of Science, Technology, Engineering and Maths. And, the paddle for life was the first step in solving the problem of global warming and climate change. The Olympics were about stopping war and bringing the world together in peace. Some day he would tell that story to the children.

## **The Olympics Sport and Peace**

On a summer day, out on a voyage, the children asked Walter to tell them the story about how the Olympics had started. Walter was delighted.

“In Ancient Greece, the philosophers with wisdom invented the Olympic Games, to stop the young warriors going to war,” said Walter. “The Games lasted for hundreds of years, before an evil king brought them to an end. He was a man who had to win at everything and, if anyone beat him at the Olympics, he had them killed. Soon nobody would compete against him.”

“What a silly man,” said Mr Good. “The main purpose in sport is to train, and for everyone to take part. Then everyone becomes fit and healthy and everyone is a winner. All those who compete against you should be your best friends, for they help you, by competing against you, to go faster, jump higher, and get stronger.”

**“I think that too,” said Walter. “Over a hundred years ago, in a small town in the middle of England, called Much Wenlock, near to where the first iron bridge in the world was built, a man called Dr Brookes thought the same. He believed that, to stop young men fighting in wars, they had to be given something else to do. He believed in training for life - education - rather than wars, to make the world a better place.**

**“Dr Brookes knew all about the Ancient Olympics and decided to start them once more. He invented the Much Wenlock Olympics, and one day the Frenchman Baron de Coubertin visited the games and was inspired by Dr Brookes. Baron de Coubertin went back to Paris and then organised the first Modern Olympics in Athens.**

**“The Olympics were first held in London in 1908. At the London Olympics, Baron de Coubertin made a famous speech, in which he used the words of an American pastor, ‘*The most important thing in the Olympic Games is not winning but taking part.*’ Today, one hundred years later, that is the lasting memory of those London Olympics. The buildings that were used are all gone but De Coubertin’s story lives on, still trying to get a message to the world about working together to solve its problems in peace.**

**“People from across the world are brought together in one city for the Olympics. They have been happening for over a hundred years. Eight thousand young men and women come together every four years to compete, but still the wars continue. Dr Brookes and Baron de Coubertin had a good idea but now, learning from the Olympics and the last one hundred years, I think that we can build on the Olympic idea and do a little better for the 21st century, and that is what we have been working on in England for many years.**

**“Our athletes improve and improve over the years with better ways of training. We must learn from them and continually improve the ways we manage ourselves on the Blue Planet. I think that we need to make it possible for many, many more people from across the world to *Take Part*, so that whenever they solve their problems they not only think of themselves but think about all the people of the world.”**

**“How do we DO IT?” said the children.**

**“That’s easy,” said Walter. “ We can do it with the Main Regatta for Our Home on the Blue Planet, which any village, town, city, can hold, wherever there is**

water, like the Chinese dragon boat festivals, which have been held for over two thousand years in China”

## **The Main Regattas for Our Home on the Blue Planet**

“Tell us all about the Main Regattas for Our Home on the Blue Planet,” said the children.

“I have called them the “Main Regattas for Our Home on the Blue Planet” so that the humans will realise that it is their home that they are destroying.

“The Main Regattas for Our Home on the Blue Planet are different from the Olympics,” said Walter. “They have the same aim of bringing people of the world together to stop wars and solve their problems in a peaceful way but it is something that every village, town, city, across the world, wherever there is water, could do every year. They try to do what Dr Brookes and Baron de Coubertin meant the Modern Olympics to do; to stop wars and solve our problems in a better and more peaceful way. But it means that millions of people across the Blue Planet can take part.

The Olympics happen only every four years, which means that all the eyes of the world are on them when they happen. It makes us think about what they are held for. But we need to be working on what it means every day, week, month and year in between the Olympic years. The Olympics and the Main Regattas are different but work together to achieve the same aim, just as all the world has to work together if we are to solve our greatest problems in peace.

“The centrepiece of the Olympics is the track, on land, and it is mainly for young men and women. The Main Regattas are different. Life cannot exist without water. It is the most important thing on the Blue Planet, so the centrepiece of the Main Regattas, like the Chinese dragon boat festival, is the water. And, because we now have a boat which ALL can take part in, the Main Regattas are for All and especially the children and their parents.

“Europe is made up of people from across the world and their families and friends live in every country on the Blue Planet. All we have to do is to hold a regatta for them and the community, where all who take part make a paddle for life and pledge to keep it for life, and then tell all their family and friends around

**the world the story of how the people of the world can come together to solve the great problems like water shortage and climate change.**

**“If those family and friends inspire the community in their towns and cities to make their paddles for life and hold a Main Regatta for Our Home on the Blue Planet, the message of how to solve our greatest problem will spread around the world.**

**“People from all over the Blue Planet can make themselves fit and make the Blue Planet fit for them to live in. If towns and cities, throughout the world take part, then soon there will be many millions more people taking part than take part in the Olympics.**

**“It has taken one hundred years to bring together, every four years, ten thousand young people from two hundred and two nations of the world for the Olympics. In China and now across the world millions of people take part in the dragon boat festivals. If , wherever there is a dragon boat festival or other water festival, all the children make a paddle for life and take part in a bell boat regatta, I think that in ten years we could be doing what those who started the Olympics tried to do.**

**“The Olympics have shown the way in the 20th Century, but with our knowledge now we can do much better for the 21st Century. And I am sure that in the 22nd Century someone will think of an even better way. It’s called continual improvement!**

**“I am sure that the paddle for life ideas, the bell boats and the Main Regattas for the Blue Planet will spread around the whole world. It has to, if humans are to survive and live in peace and harmony. In life, often when there is a need, something happens that we have never thought about. It arrives, ‘out of the blue’ to change everything.**

**“The people of the Blue Planet need something new to bring them together to solve their great problems, and you can help. When you make a paddle, go out on a bell or dragon boat, or take part in a regatta all you need to do is to let all your friends across the world know about it using the world wide web and soon you will have given all the world a new way of solving their problems.”**

## **From Asunder**

**From Asunder, Gran Main watched what Walter was doing. She had always hoped that Walter would find a different way of bringing people together to solve their problems. From far away in the universe of Asunder, she saw what was happening in Fladbury and she thought about how she could help make it happen all over the Blue Planet.**

**Gran Main was wise, like those Grans on the Blue Planet who listen to their grandchildren and are always ready to learn, no matter how old they are. Grans have learned of the past through their parents and grandparents and, if they listen, they learn about the future from their children and grandchildren. They are in the middle of life. The good Grans, like Gran Main, care about the past and they care about the future.**

**Gran Main knew many Grans in Asunder and they often talked together about caring for the Blue Planet and helping the people who lived there by bringing them together to solve their problems in a better way. Gran Main called a meeting of all the other Grans in Asunder, for every village, town, city and country on the Blue Planet had a Gran. Gran Main told them what she saw was happening on the Blue Planet.**

**“The West has solved many problems and has made life better for many of its people, through its great industries, fuelled by oil and coal and it is now the richest civilisation on the Blue Planet.**

**“China, India and the East are now following the way of the West with their own Industrial Revolution. As the people live longer and use more and more coal and oil, new problems have arisen. As people make more and more, and buy more and more, more and more rubbish is created and more and more gases from its industries are making the Blue Planet warmer than ever before. The climate is changing, the great oceans of the world are changing, and changing where water falls on the Blue Planet. The sea levels are rising and fresh drinking water is becoming scarcer and scarcer. It is making it more and more difficult for humans, animals and plants to live.**

**“Humans have created what they thought was a wonderful home for themselves in the atmosphere of the Blue Planet but it is now going very wrong. We have to inspire the humans to use their cleverness to clean up their world so that it better for them and all other life.**

**“Many years ago I flew Walter and Winnie to the Blue Planet from Asunder, hoping that they would learn about the Blue Planet and its great problems and think of a way to solve them so that the ideas would be ready when China and the East had their Industrial Revolution.**

**“Walter has learned about life on the Blue Planet as he has travelled around the world going to the Olympics. Winnie has learned how to care for the children of the world by looking after the children of the Tees Valley, in England, in Europe.**

**“Learning from the Chinese dragon boat, Walter has invented new bell boats which he uses to bring the leaders, teachers, children, politicians and parents of Europe and their friends from other countries together, to talk about and to solve their problems, especially, water shortage and climate change, in a way in which they think about the whole Blue Planet. Winnie has stayed at home and cared for all her children, grandchildren and great grandchildren.**

**“Walter and Winnie have had long lives. They are now wise enough to set out to try and inspire the people of the Blue Planet with their ideas of how to manage themselves in a better way and to make the Blue Planet a better place for all life. I think that I should fly to the Blue Planet to bring Walter and Winnie together again.”**

**All the Grans were delighted for they all cared about the Blue Planet.**

**“We agree,” they all said, “you must fly there straight away”.**

**Then the Gran of China spoke out. She was called Gran Chi. She had a pure white shell and white swallow shaped wings, a yellow head and a red body. Her eyes were brown and her name was written on her shell in yellow letters.**

**“I’m proud that they have used a Chinese story and a Chinese paddle for life to bring all the children of Europe, and their friends in the West on board to solve the problems of the world in peace and harmony, which is what China was trying to do by holding the Olympics in Beijing in 2008.**

**“ We must make sure that all the world knows about the Chinese paddle for life, the bell boats, the dragon boats and the Main Regattas for Our Home on the Blue Planet. Now that the Olympic Torch has left Beijing we can give China and the whole world our Chinese paddle for life, so that all can *Take Part*, as Baron**

de Coubertin wanted, in solving the world's problems in peace and harmony. It will become the legacy for all the Olympics in future."

"The Winter Olympics have just been held in Sochi in Russia. The Olympic Torch brought the spirit of the Olympics from Greece but the Olympic the flame has now gone out in Russia. If Beijing and Sochi now work together and use the Chinese paddle for life as their legacy, then the spirit will continue and Baron de Coubertin's dream of all *Taking Part* , which he spoke of in London in 1908, can come true."

Gran Main spoke. "It's very important that we in Europe bring China and the United States, and the world together to solve the problems of climate change. But we have not much time if we are going to save our home the Blue Planet. I think that you, Gran Chi must come with me to help to to the job.

"We must fly to see Walter and Winnie to bring them together again so that they can help and inspire all the people of Europe, China and America to *Take Part* as soon as possible. We must fly to the Blue Planet today."

So, Gran Main and Gran Chi waved good-bye to the Grans of Asunder and flew off to the Blue Planet and Stockton in the Tees Valley to talk to Winnie.

## Winnie and Walter: Working Together

Gran Main and Gran Chi found Winnie lying in a small hollow in the ground near to the banks of the River Tees in Stockton. They flew down and perched on the edge of the hollow. Winnie was most surprised to see them.

Gran Main told Winnie about the problems facing the people of the Blue Planet and how their job was to care for them, just as Winnie had cared for the people of the Tees Valley. She told Winnie about Walter and how he had been inspired by a story from China to make his bell boats and his Chinese paddle for life. She told her about Walter's travels around the world to the Olympics with the children he had helped and inspired. She asked Winnie to come together with Walter to help the West and the world win the war for the survival of the humans on the Blue Planet.

Gran Chi spoke to Winnie. "Your ears are very special. They are a sign of victory, like Churchill's two fingers, and we need a sign to say we will have victory over the problems on the Blue Planet when we all 'Work Together!'



**When people see you on board with Walter they will shout out, ‘WE ALL WIN WITH WALTER and WINNIE’.”**

**“I would love to help you and to use my ears as a sign for victory,” said Winnie. “I will be delighted to meet Walter again. We will pull together in pulling the West and the East together to make the Blue Planet a better place.**

**“Many of the children I have cared for in the Tees Valley have grown up. I thought that I would not be needed in the future. I was getting tired lying here. Now you have given me a new purpose. My spirit is getting stronger by the minute. Let’s GO DO IT!”**

**“Wonderful,” said Gran Chi, “We will fly you to Walter straight away.”**

**So Gran Chi took Winnie in her arms, and they flew off to meet Walter.**

**In Fladbury, Walter was sitting on a tree stump on the riverbank of Shakespeare’s Avon, beside the bell boats, making a paddle for life from the branch of a willow tree. Gran Main, Gran Chi and Winnie landed, ‘out of the blue’, on the branches of the tree above Walter. Walter was most surprised to see them and was very, very happy to see Winnie again.**

**Gran Main and Gran Chi told Walter that they had brought Winnie to help him to take his bell boats and the Chinese paddle for life ideas all around the West and the East to bring the people together to solve their problems in a better way.**

**Gran Chi talked about the Olympics and the great opportunity that they brought to bring Baron de Coubertin’s dream to reality. Walter was delighted and they sat together for hours talking about what to do. Then they went to bed and slept, dreaming about the ideas.**

## **Gran Eu and Gran Am**

**The next morning, Gran Main, Gran Chi, Walter and Winnie met to talk about what to do.**

**“We have watched from Asunder what you have been doing in Britain,” said Gran Main.**

**“What we believe we should do is hold Main Regattas for Our Home on the Blue Planet in the rest of Europe, the United States and China as soon as we can and have a special paddle for life for Europe, the United States and China, as the prize for the winner of the Main Boat Race for the Blue Planet, which will be for the children.**

**“That’s a brilliant idea,” said Walter. “I will be delighted to make very special paddles for life for Europe, the United States and China.”**

**Gran Main spoke. “Once Walter has made the paddles, we will fly Walter and Winnie across Britain to inspire all her leaders to sign the paddles for life for the rest of Europe, the United States and China and the United States of America. I’m sure that they will all be delighted to take part.”**

**Walter soon made the Chinese paddles for life and Gran Main flew Walter to meet the prime minister and many other leaders of Britain. They had all signed the paddle for life for Fladbury and they were all delighted to take part again and sign the paddles for the rest of Europe, the United States of America and China.**

**With the paddles for life signed by the British leaders Gran Main called Walter, Winnie and Gran Chi together.**

**“We now have all the things we need to inspire the rest of Europe, America and China to come on board and work together to solve the great problem of climate change, but we will need the Grans of America and Europe to fly Walter and Winnie to the other countries of Europe and America. We will also need someone to carry on our work in Britain whilst we are away. I will ask Gran Flad, the Gran of Fladbury to help us. I will go back to Asunder and bring them back here.”**

**So Gran Main flew back to Asunder to bring back Gran Eu, Gran Am and Gran Flad to England.**

## **The Voyages to Europe and America**

**Soon they were all back in England and met Winnie Walter and Gran Chi at Fladbury on Shakespeare’s Avon. The first thing they did was to go out on a bell**

boat, so that they would all get to know each other. As they paddled together they talked.

“Many people in Britain know about the paddle for life, the bell boats and about all working together to solve the problems of water shortage and climate change,” said Gran Main. “But, whatever Britain does it will have little effect. Without the rest of Europe, the United States and China taking part the Blue Planet will carry on getting warmer and warmer. We must first try and find a way of inspiring the rest of Europe to take part.”

Gran Eu spoke. “The greatest paddlesport nations in Europe are Hungary and Germany. I have been asked to speak in Hungary about the future of paddlesport. I believe that I should take Walter and Winnie and talk about the future of the Blue Planet and how paddlesport can help.

“First we must get the paddle for life for Europe signed by the president of Europe.”

So Gran Eu flew Walter and Winnie, to the European Parliament in Brussels. Europe has four presidents. The first one, the president of the European Commission was delighted to sign. He had once been the prime minister of Portugal and he told how the very first sporting club that had been formed in Portugal was a paddlesport club.

They then flew off to Hungary and spoke to the leaders and paddlers of Hungary, who said that the Germans would be the best people to lead the way in Europe and, once the Germans had led the way, they would be happy to take part. So off they flew to Coburg in Germany where Walter had friends who were paddlers. His German friends were very excited and said they would help, but they would need bell boats.

Walter promised to give them two bell boats and a year later Gran Eu flew Walter, Winnie, two bell boats and the paddle for life to Coburg. His German friends organised a great voyage on the River Main, from Coburg to Frankfurt. A thousand paddlers and rowers took part. They stopped in twenty two towns and the mayors of each came out to welcome the bell boats. Walter made a speech in every town and asked the mayors to lead the way for Europe and world by inspiring the children of their towns to make paddles for life, plant trees and hold water festivals to remind people of the problems of water shortage, climate change, rising sea levels.

The mayors were very welcoming but they all told Walter, Winnie and Gran Eu that the only way for the problem to be solved was if the United States led the way and, once the United States had led the way, they would be happy to take part.

When Walter, Winnie and Gran Eu returned to England they had a meeting with Gran Main, Gran Am, Gran Chi and Gran Flad. They told them what the mayors had told them.

“That’s fine.” said Gran Am. “I have just been asked to make a speech at Purdue University in Indiana in the Unites States. I will fly Walter and Winnie there and we will speak about how the United States can lead the way for the world to solve the problems caused by climate change. Purdue is a great engineering university and I think that as Walter is an engineer he should speak for us.

Walter was delighted. Purdue University is known as the cradle of astronauts. It is where Neil Armstrong, the first man on the Moon was trained and it is twinned with the great Chinese university of Tsingua in Beijing. Gran Am flew Walter, Winnie, two bell boats and the paddle for life to Purdue University. The students and professors were delighted to take part, but in Indiana there were many people who did not believe that humans were responsible for global warming and the leaders of the university did not wish to offend them, so were not happy to take part. Walter realised that Purdue and Indiana could never lead the way.

However, when Walter spoke at Purdue University, the leader of Winona, in Minnesota, was there and he listened to what Walter was saying. He invited Walter, Winnie and Gran Am to take the bell boats, the paddle for life and the ideas to Winona. They were delighted to do so.

The people of Winona inspired the governor of Minnesota and the US senators of Minnesota to sign their paddle for life. They organised a Paddle for Life Festival with a great regatta and three thousand people went out in the bell boats. They said that they would do so every year.

At first, it seemed that Winona and Minnesota might inspire the rest of America and the world to take part but the more Walter and Winnie learned about the

United States the more they realised that Winona and Minnesota would have have a very hard job to bring it about.

America is the richest country on the Blue Planet and the people have had a good way of life for many years. Many people do not see why they should get involved with the rest of the world. In WW2 America did not join the war until their way of life was threatened by the attack by the Japanese on Pearl Harbour. Only when Russia put Sputnik into space did the Americans see the threat to their way of life and then decide to lead the way into space.

It seemed to Walter and Winnie that, despite what was happening in Winona and Minnesota, that the United States would never set out to put its great scientific and engineering might to solve the problem of climate change unless they felt that some other country was creating a better world which would last longer and be a better world than theirs.

They had gone to America with great hope, but as they returned to England they were really worried that the problems of climate change would never be solved. They were worried that, once more, wars would start and the world would again be threatened as it was during the World War when Walter and Winnie were young. It was a terrible thought. They would have much to tell Gran Main, Gran Eu, Gran Chi and Gran Flad when they returned to Fladbury, in Heart of England.

## **Invitations to China**

As always, when Walter, Winnie and Gran Am returned to Fladbury they went out in the bell boat, “Spirit of Fladbury and Energy Climate Era”, so that they could talk, listen and decide what next to do.

Walter spoke. “We had a great time in the United States”, he said. “But, despite the efforts of our friends in Winona, we do not think that the United States can lead the world in solving the problem of climate change. There are just too many leaders who believe that there is no need for change.

“We have always looked to the United States to lead the world and now it seems that they won’t. Gran Am, Winnie and I are are very worried. We believe that with no world leadership, the problems caused by global warming will lead to many conflicts and even another world war.

**“I disagree,” said Gran Chi. China is now becoming the greatest industrial power in the world and her leaders do not deny that they have a problem with climate change, water shortage and all the other environmental problems. They know that there is a great need for change throughout the world.**

**“The president of China has made many speeches saying that China will lead the way in solving the problems, and has said that the way to do it is to get the ideas of emission reduction deep into the hearts of all the people.**

**“The bell boat, the Main Regattas and the paddle for life are designed to do just that and we can help the president of China get the ideas deep into the hearts of all the children, people and leaders of China.**

**“Every year we have dragon boat festivals across all of China. It is our second most important festival. If we had a “Paddle for Life Week” for the children and parents, where they took part in a Main Regatta for Our Home the Blue Planet, as part of the dragon boat festivals, then soon everyone in China would be taking part and all the world will know.**

**“I am sure that if the president of China knew about the Walter’s ideas he would be delighted to take part and sign paddles for life for races in China. Our most important task is to try every way that we can to get the paddle for life and the ideas to the president.**

**“How are we going to that?” said Walter.**

**“I think that the first thing to do is to inspire the Chinese ambassador in Britain to sign the paddle for life we have for China, said Gran Chi.” “I will write and ask her to do so.”**

**It was not long before Gran Chi had a reply from the Chinese ambassador, who said she would be delighted to sign, and invited Gran Chi, Gran Flad, Walter and Winnie to the Chinese embassy in London.**

**The Chinese ambassador was a very pleasant, quietly spoken lady with a beautiful smile. She was delighted to meet Walter, Winnie, Gran Flad and Gran Chi and gave them an Olympic torch from the Beijing Olympics to hold together with the paddles for life. In their right hand they held the Olympic torch, which has been lit in Greece, the centre of Western civilisation which had given the**

Olympics to the world. In their left hand they held the Paddle for Life, symbol of Chinese civilisation, the oldest on the Blue Planet.

The ambassador said that the Chinese president loved children and she was certain that if he knew how they and a story from Chinese history could help to bring the world on board to solve its greatest problems, he would be delighted to take part. She promised to do her very best to get the message to the president. The ambassador told them that the best way to make sure the Chinese president knew about the ideas was to get the English Queen, because she was the head of the state, to sign the paddle for life.

The ambassador then sent the Paddle for Life, which she, the prime minister of the Britain and the president of Europe, to the mayor of Beijing. The mayor of Beijing signed the Chinese Paddle for Life and sent the ideas to the mayors of the cities of Penglai and Weifang. The mayors were very proud of the history of Beijing, Penglai and Weifang and thought they were the very best places in China to launch the ideas that had been inspired by the story of Qu Yuan. The mayors of Penglai, Weifang and Beijing quickly sent invitations to Gran Chi, Walter and Winnie to visit Penglai, Weifang and Beijing.

They were delighted. Gran Main immediately flew to Asunder to ask the Grans of Penglai, Weifang and Beijing who were called Gran Pen, Gran Wei and Gran Bei to join them in Fladbury.

As always, they went out on the bell boat, but this time with a full crew of eight paddlers and one helm. Gran Main asked Gran Bei to take the helm with, Gran Eu, Gran Am, Gran Chi, Gran Pen, Gran Wei, Gran Flad, Walter, Winnie paddling, with herself sitting on the flagpole at the front of the boat.

Gran Main spoke. "It seems that the only way humans will now survive on the planet is if China leads the way with these English idea. All ideas have a time and place. We know that this is the time and so the place where the ideas start in China is very important. We have had an invitation from the mayors of Penglai, Weifang and Beijing, so I have asked Gran Pen, Gran Wei and Gran Bei here to tell us all about their cities."

They stopped the boat to listen to Gran Pen, Gran Wei and Gran Bei.

## **Penglai, Weifang and Beijing**

**Gran Pen was the first to speak. She had a pure white shell and white swallow shaped wings, a red head and a yellow body. Her eyes were brown and her name was written on her shell in red letters.**

**“Penglai is a very historic place in China. It is called the Water City, or Water Fortress and is beside the ocean. It has a Secret Harbour. It has Naval Museum with many ancient ships and boats. It is in Shandong Province, where Confucius was born and it is part of Yantai which has a famous school for the deaf.**

**“It was from Penglai where the fabled Eight Immortals set out floating over the ocean and where the first Chinese emperor sent off five hundred boys and girls on ships, to the east, to look for islands of immortality. Because of this two Chinese emperors have visited Penglai.**

**“Penglai is one of China’s top tourist attractions and more than two million people from China visit it each year. There can be no better place in the whole of China for getting the president’s message to all in China and all across the Blue Planet. From Penglai, China can share our great history with all the world and use it to ensure the immortality of human civilisation.”**

**Gran Pen sat down and Gran Wei quickly stood up and started to speak. Like Gran Pen she had a pure white shell and white swallow shaped wings, a red head and a yellow body. Her eyes were brown and her name was written on her shell in red letters**

**“Weifang is a very important place in China. Like Penglai, it is in Shandong Province, where Confucius was born. Here, beside the Bohai Sea, we are building the new water city of Binhai. We call it the “Venice of China”.**

**“It is a great technological and manufacturing centre and has many festivals. It is the world centre for Kite Flying. At our festivals we have Dragon Boat Racing and we take part in the Dragon Boat Festival every year.**

**“If all the eight year old children of Weifang made a Paddle for Life, planted trees and took part with their parents and teachers in the Weifang-Main Regatta for the Blue Planet as part of the Dragon Boat Festival and we had a Paddle for Life signed by our president and mayor as the perpetual prize, all of China**



would know about how Chinese history could save the Blue Planet and civilisation. All the children and people of China would be very proud of what they were doing for the world.

“Then, if we had the bell boat racing, with our children, parents and teachers at our International Kite Surfing competition then all the world would find out about the ideas.

“Weifang is one of the cities of the Bohai Sea Economic Ring and the Shandong Peninsula Blue Economic Zone, where a marine economy is being built. With the children on board with their powerful world symbol of a paddle for life, in the decades to come the Bohia Sea and the Shandong Blue Zone could become an environmental model known across the world. The gondola is a symbol of Venice. The bell boat could be the symbol of Blue Economic Zone and the greatest world model of the Main Regatta for the Blue Planet

“From Weifang, as from Penglai, China can can share our great history with all the world and use it to ensure the immortality of human civilisation.”

Gran Wei sat down and Gran Bei quickly stood up and started to speak. Like Gran Pen and Gran Wei she had a pure white shell and white swallow shaped wings, a red head and a yellow body. Her eyes were brown and her name was written on her shell in red letters.

“I think that it would be wonderful to launch the ideas in Penglai and Weifang for both of them have great histories, which can be used to take our message to the world, but I believe, if our aim is to inspire the president and leaders of China to take part that we must launch the ideas in Beijing.

“Beijing is the capital city of China. The president and all her leaders live there on the banks of a beautiful lake, which would be a brilliant place to hold voyages and regattas for the children and families.

“The 2008 Olympics focussed the minds of all the world on Beijing. I am sure that if we held a Paddle for Life Week and Main Regatta for the Blue Planet in Beijing, at the time of the Dragon Boat Festival, and all the children of Beijing made a paddle for life and planted trees to replace the carbon, all the people of China would want to take part.

**As Gran Bei sat down all the crew clapped and cheered.**

**“That’s wonderful.” said Gran Main. We must now make sure that we inspire the mayors of Penglai, Weifang and Beijing to help us to save their home on the Blue Planet. Let’s GO DO IT!**

## **A Voyage to China**

**The future of the whole of human civilisation now seemed to rest on Penglai, Weifang Beijing. Walter, Winnie, Gran Main and Gran Chi knew how important it was to make sure that the president of China would one day launch the bell boats and ideas in China.**

**They wrote to the English Queen and asked her to sign a Paddle for Life for Beijing, but she had to say no, because the system did not allow it.**

**So they wrote to the prime minister of the Britain and asked him to name three bell boats for China. He was was delighted to take part. He was also delighted to sign three more paddles for life for Penglai, Weifang and Beijing.**

**The prime minister named the “Spirit of Penglai and Energy Climate Era” , the “Spirit of Weifang and Energy Climate Era” and the “Spirit of Beijing and Energy Climate Era” and wished Walter, Winnie and Gran Chi a very good voyage to China.**

**Within a few weeks, Gran Chi, Gran Pen, Gran Wei and Gran Bei, flew Walter, Winnie, the three bell boats and the paddles for life to China.**

**The bell boats and the ideas were first launched at the Penglai-Stars Symposium for future world leaders, on a beach by the Yellow Sea. The symposium was organised by the Chinese People’s Association for Friendship with Foreign Countries and the Swiss bank UBS. Children from Penglai schools and the Yantai School for the Deaf took part with the future world leaders in a truly wonderful ceremony. The mayor signed the Penglai Paddle for Life and students from the university took part in a race and were presented with the perpetual trophy. It was was then hung in the Penglai museum, so that all the people of Penglai could see it.**

The mayor was delighted and promised to inspire all the children and people of Penglai to take part in an annual event and put the idea of all working together to solve the great environmental problems deep into people's hearts. The children and people of Penglai gave Walter, Winnie and the Grans great hope and inspiration to carry on with their voyage.

Gran Pen stayed in Penglai to help the mayor to inspire all the children and people of Penglai, and Walter, Winnie, Gran Main, Gran Chi and Gran Wei flew two bell boats and the two remaining Paddles for Life to Weifang-Binhai. Weifang-Binhai is the centre for kite surfing in China and the day that Walter and Winnie arrived there was the opening ceremony of their International Kite Surfing competition.

It was a huge and colourful occasion with thousands of spectators. The children took part in the opening ceremony together with all the kite surfing competitors from nations around the world. The mayor signed the Weifang Paddle for Life and the children took part in a race and were presented with the perpetual trophy. It was then hung in the Weifang-Binhai museum, so that all the people of Weifang and the world could see it.

The mayor of Weifang was delighted and promised to inspire all the children and people of Weifang Binhai to take part in an annual event and put the idea of all working together to solve the great environmental problems deep into people's hearts. The children and people of Weifang and the world's kite surfers gave Walter, Winnie and the Grans great hope and inspiration to carry on with their voyage.

Gran Wei stayed in Weifang-Binhai to help the mayor whilst Walter, Winnie, Gran Main and Gran Flad flew to Beijing, the capital city of China.

The mayor said that, like Gran Bei, he believed that there was no better place to take the Chinese president's message to China and the world, and that he thought it would be wonderful if the president of China one day signed the Beijing Paddle for Life and launched, the "Spirit of Beijing and Energy-Climate Era", with the children of Beijing and then signed Paddles for Life for the president of the United States and other world leaders.

Walter agreed. "When we met the Chinese ambassador in London, she told us that the best way to get the president of China to sign the Paddle for Life was to get the English Queen to sign it because she, like your president, is the head of

the state. We have tried many times to get that to happen but the system in Britain does not allow her to do so. However, I am sure that we will find another way to do it. We have to, for if we don't, many many of people millions of people will die."

Leaving Gran Bei in Beijing, Gran Main, Gran Chi, Walter and Winnie flew back to Fladbury on the banks of Shakespeare's Avon. All they had to do was to find a way of getting the ideas into the hands of the president of China.

## **The European Union and Lithuania**

When they returned to Fladbury they went out in the bell boat, "Spirit of Fladbury and Energy Climate Era", to meet again with Gran Eu, Gran Chi, Gran Am and Gran Flad.

Gran Main spoke. "It's wonderful to be back with you all again. We had a great time in China and we now have high hopes that one day the Fladbury ideas will be used by the leaders of China, but we have a great problem and we need to discuss it with you with great urgency. We need your help.

"To spread the ideas quickly throughout China we need to get them into the hands of the president. When the Chinese ambassador signed the Paddles for Life in London she told Walter and Winnie that the best way to make sure the Chinese president knew about the ideas was to get the English Queen, because she was the head of the state, to sign the Paddle for Life.

"Walter and Winnie have tried many times to inspire the English Queen to sign the paddle for the president of China, but they always get the same answer - 'the system does not allow it, no matter how great the cause'. But we must find a way if we are to save the humans on the Blue Planet from destroying the environment they live in.

Gran Eu spoke. "Walter and Winnie feel so much part of Britain that they are forgetting that Britain is now part of the Europe Union. Perhaps the European Union system can do what the British system cannot do.

"The European Union is a little complicated and has four presidents, the president of the European Commission, who has already signed a Paddle for Life, the president of the European Parliament, the president of the Council of

**Ministers, and the president of the European Council, which is made up of the heads of state or the leaders of government in each European state.**

**“ I will write to the three presidents who have not yet signed and ask them to sign a Paddle for Life for China and ask them to write a letter to the president of China, telling him about the ideas, and thanking him for the idea being inspired by a story from Chinese history.**

**“Also, the European Council has twenty eight leaders of the countries of the European Union on it and each country has a different system. I will write to everyone of them and ask for their help.”**

**It was a huge task, but Gran Eu, knowing it had to be done if the humans home on the Blue Planet was to be saved, persevered, and was delighted to quickly receive a letter from the presidents of the European Council and the European Parliament, saying that they would be delighted to sign the paddle for life and within a few days they had signed the Paddle for Life.**

**Gran Eu was also delighted to receive a letter from the president of Cyprus sending his best wishes for every success in Gran Eu’s endeavours and then to receive a letter from the president of France giving his best wishes for the success of the ideas and sending his encouragement for Gran Eu to continue her commitment to fighting climate change.**

**Best of all, was a message from the president of Lithuania who was, at that time, the president of the Council of Ministers of Europe and head of state for Lithuania, who said that she would be delighted to sign the paddle for life for the president of China. Within a few weeks the president of Lithuania has signed the Paddle for Life for China.**

**It was a huge step forward and Gran Eu was very excited. She called a meeting on the bell boat in Fladbury to tell Gran Main, Gran Chi, Gran Am, Gran Flad and sent a message to Asunder to ask Gran Lit, the Gran of Lithuania to fly quickly to the Blue Planet to tell them all about Lithuania.**

**Gran Eu told them all about what had happened, then Gran Main spoke.**

**“It is simply brilliant what Gran Eu has done, for now in Europe, from the children of Fladbury to the four presidents of the European Union, we have all on board. But what is very very important is that the president of Lithuania has**

signed the Paddle for Life for the president of China. It is a huge step forward, for the president of Lithuania is the first president and head of state of any nation state on the Blue Planet to do so.

“Because the president of Lithuania is the first president and head of state to sign the Paddle for Life she and Lithuania will go down in history for being first, it will be the story that no-one else can ever do again.

“Lithuania will become so important in human history Gran Eu thought that we should learn a little more about Lithuania and she has invited Gran Lit to tell us all about Lithuania.”

Gran Lit stood up on the bell boat. She had a green head, red body, and a pure white bell-shaped shell with her name on it in yellow. Her wings were pure white. She had brown eyes.

“Lithuania is only a small country but our president sits on the European Council. At the moment she is president of the Council of Ministers and she is also the head of state our country. Like all the countries in the Europe Union Lithuania wants to do something about climate change and it is also very important for Lithuania to be part of a strong European Union.

“Our president has already signed the Paddle for Life for the president of China. If our president can show all the leaders of the European Union that by working together we can inspire China, America and the world to work together to solve the climate change problem, I am sure that our president will be very happy to help in every way that she can.

“I am sure that our president and all the people of Lithuania will be delighted to take up the Fladbury ideas and take them to the leaders of China, America, Europe and the world. It will be fantastic if we in Lithuania can lead the world in tackling the greatest problem faced by the humans.”

All the Grans cheered. Then Gran Flad, the Gran of Fladbury stood up.

“I’m very sorry that after all the hard work that has been done by the children, parents and teachers of Fladbury, and their friends throughout Britain, Germany and the United States, that the British system will not allow the English Queen to sign a Paddle for Life for the president of China.

**“ But I am delighted that we have now found a possible way to move forward through the European Union and Lithuania. Through Lithuania we know that it is possible to get a head of state to sign the Paddle for Life. Now we must think about which head of state has the best chance of quickly getting the Paddle for Life and the ideas into the hands of the president of China.”**

**Gran Lit stood up. “ I am proud to be Lithuanian and I would love to believe that our president could do it, but my parents are Russian and I believe that you have all forgotten Russia and its great friendship with China. I believe that we you, Gran Main should ask Gran Russ, the Gran of Russia to help”**

**“I have indeed made a great mistake in forgetting Russia,” said Gran Main. I will send a message immediately to Asunder to bring Gran Russ here to tell us all about Russia.”**

## **Gran Russ to the Rescue**

**Gran Russ was delighted to get the call from Gran Main to join her on the Blue Planet. In a flash she was in Fladbury, in the Heart of England, with Gran Main and the other Grans.**

**“It’s great that you are with us”, said Gran Main. “We know all about the problems facing the humans on the Blue Planet and the ideas that have been invented here in Fladbury, in the Heart of England to bring all the world on board and working together to solve the climate change problem.**

**“We all believe that it is vital to get those ideas to the president of China. The Chinese ambassador has told us that the best and quickest way would be to get the Queen of England to sign a Paddle for Life for China and give it to the president, but that can’t be done, because of the way the British system works.**

**“Gran Lit has told has reminded me that the president of Russia is a great friend of the president of China. I had forgotten all about Russia. I’m very sorry about that, but now you are here we hope that you will be able to show us how Russia can help us.”**

**Gran Russ stood up. She had a red head, with a blue body and legs and a white shell with her name of Gran Russ on it. Her eyes were brown.**

**“I’m really glad to be here”, she said. “For I believe that Russia is the key to getting the ideas to the president of China, and the world and in doing it is key to bringing peace to the world.**

**“At the Sochi Winter Olympics, the president made a speech in which he said that the people of Russia needed some great aim to show their place in the world.**

**“The Olympics are all about bringing people together in peace, as are football and motor sport. After the Olympics Sochi is holding the the top motor sport event each year and then the World Cup in football. It is a very important place.**

**“I believe that the best way of getting the president of Russia on board is to give him a Paddle for Life for Sochi, a bell boat and all the ideas, so that he can see for himself how great they would be for Sochi, Russia, China and the world.**

**“I am sure that when he has seen the ideas in Sochi, he will then be delighted to give a Paddle for Life, a bell boat and the ideas to his friend the president of China.**

**“The humans need to change if their civilisations are to survive. Stories are a great way of changing the way we do things and we have a wonderful story about a small Russian boat that can help to inspire all the world to take part, and strangely it all starts with an English Queen many years ago.**

**“The greatest boating treasure in Russia is a small boat now called “Peter’s Botik”. In the reigns of Queen Elizabeth 1st of England and Czar Ivan the Terrible of Russia, the English and the Russians were friends because they traded with each other. There is a story that to help their friendship Queen Elizabeth 1st gifted the small boat to Czar Ivan. It was presented to the Czar by the British ambassador and originally named the Saint Nicholas, who is the patron saint for children and from whose life came the story of Father Christmas.**

**“In 1688, Czar Ivan’s grandson, Peter the Great, discovered the small English designed boat, rotting in a shed. He had it restored, and learned to sail in it. In 1701 it was stored in the Kremlin’s Dormition Cathedral and inspired the creation of the Russian Navy.**

**“Peter the Great sailed the boat down the Neva River on his birthday, it took part in ceremonies and Peter ordered that it be sailed or rowed to the Alexander**



**Nevsky Monastery in Saint Peterburg, every year on the 30th August. It became known as “Peter’s Botik”.**

**“Whilst Queen Elizabeth 2nd, the current English Queen cannot take part-unlike Queen Elizabeth 1st, who could do as she pleased - the president of Russia is allowed to take part and I am sure he will be delighted to do so.**

**“If he now gifted the “Spirit of Peter’s Botik and Energy Climate Era” to the president of China and it was presented to him by the Russian ambassador in Beijing, then the president of China would learn about the ideas. I am sure that he would be delighted and soon all the children of China would be making their Paddles for Life, planting trees and taking part in their Dragon Boat Festival using bell boats, like the “Spirit of Peter’s Botik and Energy Climate Era”.**

**“Then, the president of Russia could do the same for all the countries of the Europe, the United States and the world. One day he could even gift the “Spirit of Peter’s Botik and Energy Climate Era” and the ideas to Queen Elizabeth 2nd!**

**“All the world would know about the great good being done for the world, by Russia. All the world would have the chance to take part in inspiring their future generations to take part in a creative competition to see who could build the cleanest energy civilisation.**

**“What would be wonderful is if each year at Christmas time the president of Russia helmed the “Spirit of Peter’s Botik and Energy Climate Change” with Russian children as the crew, in Sochi, home to the Olympics, world football and world motor racing. It would be a picture that would go around the world about the world working together in peace to solve its greatest problems.**

**“All the world’s children will win and all the world’s children will love the children and the president of the Russian Federation.”**

**“That really is a wonderful story to tell the world”, said Walter.**

**“I will make a Paddle for Life for Sochi and get it signed by our leading Olympic, football and motor racing champions. I will make a new bell boat, the “Spirit of Peter’s Botik and Enengy Climate Era” and I will write to the president of Russia and the Russian ambassador in London to ask them to accept this gift from the heart from the Heart of England.”**

**Gran Main and all the other Grans clapped their hands and gave out a great cheer.**

**Then Gran Main stood up to speak.**

### **Gran Main's Speech**

**“I’m a coach. It’s a coach’s job to help people in need and with a problem to solve, to give them a vision of how to solve it, to give them the tools to do the job and then to show them the first step.**

**“The people of the Blue Planet have a great problem if they are to live. They will only ever solve it without going to war by working together and we have given them a vision of how to do it, so that they can save the world they have made. The tools to do the job are ready. The first step is for all the children and young people to make their Paddle for Life, pledge to keep it for life, and plant trees to replace the wood they have used - remembering to plant twice as many trees needed. But they must have the support of their leaders.**

**“Now that Gran Russ has shown us the way I am sure that you will soon be able inspire the president of Russia to take part. So all is in place for Russia to inspire China, the United States, the European Union and the world to take part. My job as a coach is done for now. It is now up to you to help the president to coach Russia to inspire all the world on board and working together.**

**“I will return to Asunder and listen and learn as you inspire all on board. I will watch Russia and your beautiful Blue Planet, like a coach, from afar. I will look, listen, reflect and dream about how to help you, if you ever need my help. But, I believe that the people of Russia, China, the European Union and the USA can do it, with your help. I will speak to all the Grans of the Blue Planet and wherever they are needed to help you I am sure that they will be delighted to join you on the Blue Planet.**

**“So, for now it’s ‘Bon Voyage and Good Paddling’ to you and all on your home on the Blue Planet.” On my way back I will plant a Paddle for Life on the Moon, carrying the flag of the Russian Federation, to give a vision to all on the Blue Planet of what we are trying to do.”**

**With that Gran Main, waving the three paddles for life in the air, flew off and in a flash was back in Asunder.**

## **Gran Main's Dream**

**Back in Asunder and fast asleep in her bed, Gran Main had a dream. She dreamed of the dragon boats coming from China to Europe and bringing with them the story of Qu Yuan, the famous Chinese poet. She dreamed of the British parliament and the two red lines on the carpet. She dreamed about a sword and shield being turned into a Paddle for Life, shaped like a Chinese dragon boat paddle.**

**She dreamed of Qu Yuan and his story which had travelled the world with the dragon boats. She dreamed of Stockton in the Tees Valley, of Fladbury in the Heart of England and of Shakespeare's Avon.**

**She dreamed of the mayors of Penglai, Weifang, and Beijing, naming the three bell boats. She dreamed of the children of China making their Paddles for Life from Russian Birch and Pine.**

**She dreamed of the president of Russia, at Christmas time, helming the "Spirit of Peter's Botik and Energy Climate Era" in Sochi with the children of Russia as the crew, sending a message of peace, in the Olympic spirit, to the world.**

**She dreamed of the ideas spreading across the whole of the Russian Federation and of the president giving the ideas to the president of China.**

**She dreamed of the president of Russia giving a "Spirit of Peter's Botik and Energy Climate Era" to the heads of state of Germany, Hungary, France, Lithuania and all the nations of the European Union.**

**She dreamed of the children of Russia, China, the United States, the European Union, and across the Blue Planet, studying science, technology, engineering and maths, so that they would be able to look for new ways to make clean energy, to preserve water and ways to save energy.**

**She dreamed of the children and young people of Russia, China, the European Union and America, using the web to tell all their friends across the world what they were doing.**

**She dreamed of the bell boats and the children planting trees. She dreamed of Gran Russ, Walter and Winnie back on the Blue Planet bringing all the leaders and people of Russia, China, the USA and the European Union and on board.**

**She dreamed of the children and leaders of Russia, China, the USA and the European Union, signing the Paddle for Life. She dreamed of the Main regattas in Penglai, Weifang and Beijing. She dreamed of the day when there would be Main regattas in Stockton in the Tees Valley, Sochi, Moscow, Saint Petersburg and all the cities, towns and villages across the world.**

**She dreamed of the large Chinese Paddle for Life, with the flags of all nations being taken to the top of the mountains of the world, spelling out its warning to the people of the Blue Planet and its message of how to solve its problems by pulling together. She dreamed that one day it would be taken to the top of Mount Elbrus, Russia's highest mountain.**

**She dreamed of a day when Russia, China, the United States of America and Europe working together to take the bell boats, the Paddles for Life, the Main regattas and the stories to every country on the Blue Planet so that all the world could learn how to take part and work together for a better future for all.**

**She dreamed of a day when, led by Russia, China, the United States of America and the European Union, bombing and terror would stop on the Blue Planet, and when all the brooks, rivers, lakes and the Main would be made clean. Of a day when the soot would go, and the air in the world would be clean. Of a day when everyone in the world had clean water to drink.**

**She dreamed of the Blue Planet without mountains of rubbish being built. She dreamed of a world with clean energy and fit for all life. She dreamed of a world when all were 'Winning with Walter and Winnie'.**

**She dreamed of a day when all the children of the Blue Planet knew that they did not only need to buy things to be happy. She dreamed of a day when all would know that happiness was inside them, and by doing their best to help others, each day, they would always be happy.**

**She dreamed of a day when the Olympic dreams of Dr Brookes and Baron de Coubertin came true.**

**She dreamed of the day that she had the idea of taking Walter and Winnie to Stockton in the Tees Valley and of all that had happened since.**

**She dreamed of the children and people of Russia, China, America and the European Union, using their great history to lead the world to an immortal future.**

**She dreamed of the children of Penglai, Weifang, Beijing, Russia, China, the European Union and America making a world fit for all of life.**

**In her dreams she smiled, for she was no longer so worried for the future of the Blue Planet. There would always be problems, but now, inspired by their children and the Grans, the people of the Blue Planet had a better way of coming together to solve them.**

**With the Main regattas, the West and the East on board the bell boat, paddling together with their Chinese paddles for life, made from Russian wood, to solve the problems of the Blue Planet in a better way, there was real hope for the future. The children of Penglai, Weifang, Beijing, and Russia would inspire the children of the world to take part and together they would save the atmosphere they lived in, their home on the Blue Planet.**

**She dreamed of Gran Russ returning to Asunder one day, to inspire all the other Grans to take the ideas around the Blue Planet.**

**She smiled and smiled again and again, as she thought of the day when the president of Russia gave the “Spirit of Peter’s Botik and Energy Climate Era” and the ideas to the Queen of England.**

**She thought of the children and the president of Russia on board working together and inspiring the world, gave her great hope. Her worries for the children and people of the Blue Planet slowly slipped away.**

**With the children and helm of Russia on board, and ready to fight in the greatest battle facing humanity and civilisation she smiled with relief. She knew from Russian history, that whatever the cost, the Russian people would never, never, never give up. The humans would now win their greatest ever battle.**

**That night, feeling very secure, she slept soundly in her bed.**

# Why is it called a Bell Boat?

A Chapter from 'Walter's Festivals'

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## Walter's Silent Bell and Special Cell

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**“What is the secret in its shape?” asked the children. “We can see a silent bell, but why do you call the clapper a ‘special cell’?”**

**“Well,” said Walter, “The shape of the ‘bell and cell’ tells me that everyone of you is different. It helps me to understand other people. It tells me not to blame other people when things go wrong. It tells me first to ask why. It tells me about myself. It helps me to put the crew together in the right place. It helps me to use information and think like a scientist.”**

## Walter's Silent Bell and Special Cell

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Walter had made a Bell Boat, which was his school on the water. The children said if he had a school he should be called 'Walter the Teacher.' Mr. Good, the village teacher thought this was a great idea. Walter could now help him teach the children.

One day Walter decided to make Mr. Good a Bell Boat. Mr. Good was very pleased to have a school that could move on the river. Especially a school on the water, which was so stable he could take his blackboard and the children could take their pencils and paper.

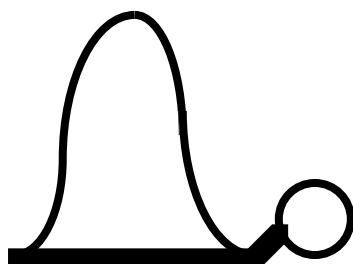
When Walter had made the second boat, he and Mr. Good went off for their first trip.

Mr. Good took the school bell with him, so that he could ring it when the lessons started. He hung the bell on a rail at the back of the boat.

Walter also had a bell on his boat but he hung it on the rail at the front where all the children could see it. It was a very special bell. It was a bell that didn't ring.

Mr. Good's bell had a message in the noise. When he rang it, it meant get ready for the lesson to start.

Walter's bell was different. Walter had taken the round 'clapper' which rang the bell and joined it to the outside of the bell with a piece of metal. It looked like this:-



“Why have you joined the clapper to the outside?” asked one of the girls.

“Your bell won’t ring now.”

One of the boys joined in. “The shape is like you, Walter. The bell is like your body and the clapper like your head.”

The children laughed.

“That’s right,” said Walter, “it is shaped like me and it carries a message. I call it my ‘Silent Bell and Special Cell’ and the secret is in its shape. Most bells are to be listened to, but this bell you look at.”

“What is the secret in its shape?” asked the children. “We can see a silent bell, but why do you call the clapper a ‘special cell’?”

“Well,” said Walter, “The shape of the ‘bell and cell’ tells me that everyone of you is different. It helps me to understand other people. It tells me not to blame other people when things go wrong. It tells me first to ask why. It tells me about myself. It helps me to put the crew together in the right place. It helps me to use information and think like a scientist.

“We are all made of cells. We have cells which make up our bodies, like bone, and muscles, and our hearts, and our skin. They are all different but most of the time, they work together to keep our bodies going. And there are some

extraordinary cells which are in our head. They are very special.

“And of course, just as all our cells are different, we are all different in our shapes and sizes. My Silent Bell and Special Cell helps me to understand that.”

The children still didn’t understand, so one day Mr. Good took his blackboard on to his Bell Boat. He also took on a set of scales, a tape measure and a stopwatch.

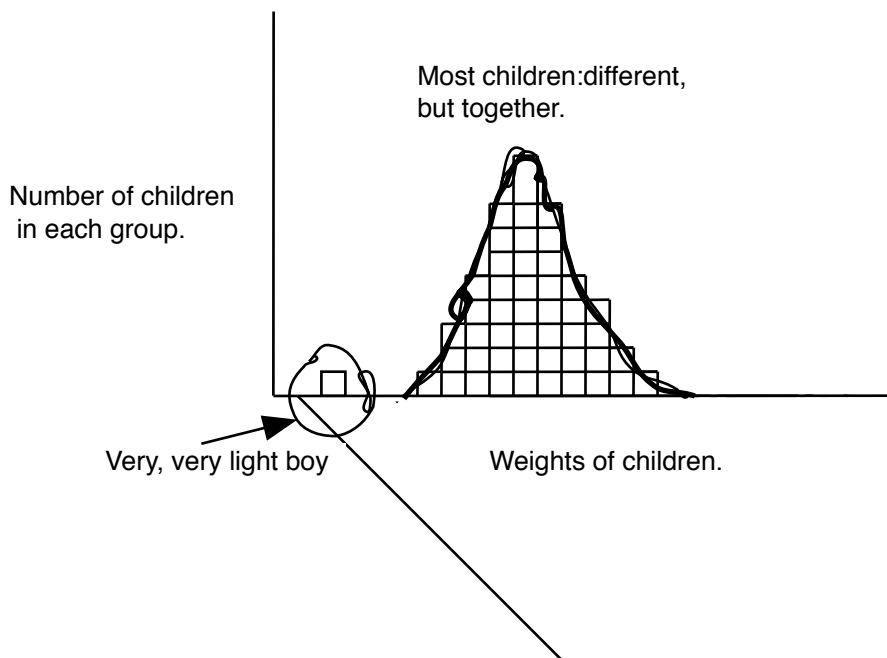
The children paddled the boats to get some exercise, and then they had a race with the two boats. They were feeling tired after that so Walter and Mr. Good tied the boats together and to the bank. Mr. Good rang his bell and said that while they rested they would have a lesson about Walter’s secret.



Walter put the scales on the centreplank of his Bell Boat and one by one the children came along the boat and were weighed. Mr. Good wrote down all the weights on the blackboard. They were all different. One or two of the children were light, one was heavy, most were in the middle, but there was one boy who was very, very light.

Mr. Good showed the children how to draw the different weights on to a graph, and they copied it into their notebooks. The graph was called a bar chart and the children had often drawn them. Now Mr. Good drew a line to join up the bars

on the chart. It looked like this:-



Most of the weights were together and the line could join up the bars but the one who was very, very light didn't fit in.

Mr. Good drew a circle around the bar.

"What shape is it?" he asked the children.

"It looks like a tortoise shape," they all shouted. "A bell shape with most of the people under it and a cell like Walter's head around the one who was very different."

The bell shape wasn't a perfect bell shape, but they could see it was a bit like Walter's Bell.

Now Mr. Good took out his tape measure. He measured the height of all the children. They were all different. One or two were small, one or two were tall and most of them were in the middle. But there was one boy called George, who was very, very tall. Mr. Good again drew the bar chart, then the joining line, and then a circle around George's height.

"What shape is it?" he asked.

"A Bell and Cell shape," they all shouted.

Again, it wasn't a perfect bell, but it was near to it, and different from the first one.

One of the boys asked, "Are our heads different, Mr. Good?"

"We must find out, let's measure them," said Mr. Good. So they put the tape measure around each head. One had a small head, one had a large head and most were in the middle. They drew out a bar chart. It was the shape of a bell but this time there was no one with a special-sized head. They were all close together.

Next, all the children got off the boats and Mr. Good said he wanted all of them to run around the meadow. He timed them all and drew another bell-shaped curve. Then he asked them to run a short distance and timed them. The children who could run the fastest over the short distance were different to those who could run fastest around the meadow. Mr. Good drew out the bar charts of their times and again they had a shape which looked a bit like a bell.

On one of the charts there was someone who could only run very, very slowly and someone who could run very, very fast. The chart looked like a two headed tortoise.

"Now," said Walter, "let me show you why we need to know how different we are. Today, we are going to have a competition to see how fast we can turn the boats."

"Good, good," said the children and they all started to rush into the Bell Boats.

"I want to be in the front," said one boy. Then another said he wanted to be in the front. They started to argue and then to fight.

“Let’s not argue,” said Walter, “You should remember my story about the shield and bell. Its shape means we are here to help each other, not to fight.”

The two silly boys stopped fighting.

“Let’s think about who is best to go in which position.” said Walter. “You are all different and in your notebooks you have the information to work it out.”

The children thought for a while and said, “The Bell Boat will turn easier if the heavier paddlers are in the middle and the lighter paddlers are at the ends.”

“Very good,” said Walter.

The children looked at the weights which they had written in their books.

The heaviest then moved to the middle and the lightest to the ends. The children in Mr. Good’s boat had done the same. They were now ready to have the competition.

They were just about to start when one of the girls said to Walter, “What about you and Mr. Good? We haven’t weighed you.”

So they got back together, weighed Mr. Good and Walter and found they were heavier than all the children.

“That means,” said the children, “that Mr. Good and Walter will have to go in the middle of the boat and the lightest one will have to steer it.”

So they all swapped round in the boat and when they tried to turn the boats round they both turned easily.

“Now,” said Walter, “What do we want to do if we are going on a journey and we all want to see where we are going?”

“We must put the smallest at the front and the tallest at the back,” said the children, and they looked at the heights and they all swapped round in the boat.

“Next,” said Walter, “Who would we put in the front if we have to keep going for a long time?” The children thought and chose those who had been able to run the long distance around the meadow.

The children got back in the boats with the lightest child steering and went steadily down the river. Suddenly they heard the sound of water moving over rapids. They had never been on fast-flowing water before and shouted for Mr. Good's and Walter's help. Walter and Mr. Good quickly moved to the back of their boats, so that they could show the children steering the boats what to do. With the help from Mr. Good and Walter, the boats went safely through the rapids. All the children thought it was very exciting.

Next they came to a long stretch with high banks. It went on and on and on.

"Are we lost?" asked the children.

"No," said Mr. Good. "I'll stand up and see where we are."

"Oh dear," said Mr. Good. "I'm not tall enough, I can't see."

"Ask George to look," cried the children. "He is very, very tall."

So George stood up and, being so different, he could see where they were.

"It's only a few hundred metres to the next village," said George

"We'll be able to stop for a rest."

The children were all happy, they paddled harder once they knew where they were going.

A few minutes later they stopped at the village.

"Walter," asked one of the girls, "We have measured our bodies and I can see how our bones are all different, making us different heights and, how our weights are different, and how our muscles move at different speeds. And you have shown us how we can see that in the shape of the Bell Curve and in the Special Cell. But what about the cells of our brains, the very special cells, how do we measure those?"

"You ask me some difficult questions," said Walter, "But I will try to explain.

“We know a lot about the cells of the bone, the muscle and the heart. We know how much they vary in different people and how much we can change them by good training. We know what they will do.

“With the special cells in our brains we know a lot less and we are never sure what they will do. There are people who measure people’s brains by doing tests and making bell curves but it is very difficult to know what they mean. Perhaps some day we will know as much about our brain as we do about muscles, but that might take many years. In the meantime, what you must remember is that we are all different in our brains and muscles, and that those differences can help us all.”

The children were now starting to see what the secret was in Walter’s Silent Bell and Special Cell.

They had to know how different they were from each other. They had to know that depending on what they were trying to do, they had to have different positions in the boat. Then they didn’t have to argue about where they sat. They didn’t have to fight if they had information. That way the team went better.

They also realised that as they went along the river it was always changing. And as it changed they needed different people, at different times, to help all of them on their journey.

They realised they were all special, and as life changed they could be needed to help all the other people.

The Bell Boat and the Silent Bell and Cell had taught them the great secret of how to think about differences in people, and how they could work together to make things better for them all.

Even Walter and Mr. Good had to change places when the children had learned the secret of **Walter’s Silent Bell and Special Cell.**

## You Tube Films

**Google. “TED. com Lord Stern.”**

**It spells out the problem for humanity and how we must act quickly to bring all the world on board.**

**Google “TED. com James Hansen. Speaking Truth to Power.”**

**“Paddle for Life....David Train.”**

**It spells out a solution, through sport and culture of how to get all the world on board and working together to tackle the problem**

**“Bell Boat. Keep Paddling.”  
Made for Scotland.**

**“Greening the Vale”  
What is happening in the Vale of Evesham.**



**Lord Stern with Paddle for Life**

# The “Soft Power Tools” needed by the Russian Federation to bring all the World on board



The “Hawaiian” Bell Boat. A “School on the Water” with its symbols of hope.

The “Chinese” Paddle for Life for the Children.

The Main Voyages for Our Home on the Blue Planet.

The Main Regattas for Our Home on the Blue Planet.

The Paddle for Life Perpetual Prizes signed by world leaders.

The Walter and Winnie Stories.

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