



I have just discovered this important book, published in 2008, that puts our political and ecological short-sightedness back into the wider human context, material and spiritual. McIntosh is a human ecologist and a Quaker writer with a clear contribution to our “Human Renovation Project”.

Already in his first book, « Soil and Soul », Alistair inspires the reader with stories of political and social triumphs at a community level, achieved through a steadfast recognition of the greater context and our relationship to our place on the planet. Sometimes overwhelming in its eclectic learning, he creates a magic synthesis of joy and wonder at who we are, and especially where we are, always with feet firmly on the ground of our present world.

In « Hell and High Water » he bravely and gently exposes a darker story of our psychohistory, with no happy ending in sight, yet infuses his writing with real vision and hope. The big picture is still soul sized, but he is not afraid to confront that with the shadow side of humanity's greed and disconnectedness demonstrated in our ecological blindness. “The question of whether technology, politics and economic muscle can sort out the problem is the small question. The big question is about sorting out the human condition.”

He calls on us to become “Planetary Hospice workers” and outlines a 12 step programme for a cultural psychotherapy, to raise consciousness and open the inner world into the outer.

A treatise for our times; much food for thought and action !

Kris Misselbrook