

.....Collections.....Collections...

" well...whad' ya do at a quarter to two with only a shrew to kiss".....so wails an ancient lothario in a song from 'Kiss Me Kate' when he is remembering all the young loves in his past life.....in a different way, here am I, an 83 year old with one foot in the grave, wondering what to do with a philosophy that has taken me 35 years to develop, which no one wants to listen to, and over 600 unloved paintings produced over the last 30 years in my amateur painting career.....you would think, somewhere along the line, there would be some worthwhile value hidden away amongst them all....!?......so,....the last roll of the dice....how to get them out into the light of day to see if there really is any value, which in turn will save them from an unwarranted and unwanted early grave

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> ...let's start with the philosophy....this started rattling around in my head in my early 40's.....and you must remember that at this time, most of my energies, emotions and thinking were taken up trying to run a small business just recently started, and win my games of golf and squash on the weekends. For I was a normal non intellectual doing what most people do in life....survive.

>philosophy was no where on the radar.....until the bee started buzzing in my head so much, that when I reached circa 47 years old, (1988), I had the physical urge to do something about it....and all I could do, when at first you are fumbling around in the dark, was to write things down on the back of envelopes and draw small cartoons to make sure anybody reading would be able to understand what I was getting at. Even the lower intelligent people like me. And that process took another 17 years (1988-2005) until my one and only little philosophical book, 256 pages of simple text and cartoons, came out self published. That was titled "Phil the Fluter's Game of Life", a light hearted but fundamentally serious philosophy with the title coming from the Irish ballad "Phil the Fluter's Ball".

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> Before I go any further, a quick word as to what the bee in my bonnet was all about.....which was in the main my belief that all the modern laws and philosophies , such as freedom, democracy, human rights and welfare statism do not jell with the animal bodies and instincts we are all made with. All the actions of what used to be 'the restraining church' were bulldozed aside by the new 'giving State'. Which meant that all our natural instincts of greed, aggression and lust were free to come out faster than Mo Salah could score his goals. Which, as an obvious result, impacted negatively on civilised society and the health of nature, or our environment, which was already on its knees.

> That was and is the basis of my thinking which continues onto the present day. Trying to get mankind to tighten his belt for his own sake as well as for the environment. And in doing this, be able to achieve more 'meaning out of his life' than he was currently getting.....this "most" important goal in life is completely off the radar as far as modern philosophy goes.

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> SOOOO....as opposed to 600 odd paintings how many philosophical words were written down over the period to date....

> ——1988-2005. PHIL THE FLUTER'S GAME OF LIFE. Was self published.....256 pages of simple text and cartoons.....basically explaining how we humans are made and why we act the way we do.

> ——2005-2019. Fifteen "Philosophical Mouse" essays, giving my philosophy on most subjects as well as showing my amateur paintings....(which had nothing to do with the text). Total aprox 60,000+ words....the title of the essays was/is PHILOSOPHY AND

PAINTING.....AN AMATEUR PLAYS HIS GAME. They can be found under the website www.philosophicalmouse.com

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> ——2019.....another website, summarising and bringing together all writings to date, as well as including more up to date scribbles on various subjects. (Including golfing and painting anecdotes.). www.anordinaryprophet.co.uk

> Made up of text and cartoons. Many many thousands of words can be brought up at the click of a click.

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> ——2019-2023.....9 letters to all the RC and C of E bishops in England. Trying to get The Church to step up to a bigger and tougher game trying to restrain humans for the sake of the environment. Total aprox 27,000 words.....a few acknowledgements but only one meaningful comment, from a senior Archbishop thanking me “for sharing my thoughts with him about the meaning of life”, probably the most important topic of all. These letters can be found in section 7 of the ‘ordinary prophet’ Webb site. With letters 7, 8 and 9 completing the logical circle of my philosophy, balancing ‘the body’ with ‘the soul’.....all in layman’s language.

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> ——2021....October...Letter to all delegates of COP26, 1000+ words plus cartoons trying to introduce a ‘low level’ approach to saving our climate, by reminding everyone it was, and is, the actions of ordinary low level “walkers” in this world that determines every thing that happens in this world, rather than listening yet one more time to what all the “high level talkers’ are saying with words alone. The ‘walkers’ are the ‘doers’ in life, and it is what the doers do that determines every thing that happens on earth. In this letter my concept of “Invisible Wealth” came in loud and strong.

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> ——2022.....Letter to 430 schools, introducing the concept of “your balance of invisible wealth”, which was just another way of reminding all schoolchildren of the balance between the two most important words we have, goodness and badness.

> This was all relating to the new subject of “sustainability”....obviously, the more the good overcomes the bad, the better the chance of the earth surviving. Children were encouraged to make their own measuring scale of goodness and badness so they could keep a close eye on their up to date “balance of invisible wealth”..!

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> ——2023.....Letter to the top 75+ world leaders. Aprox 1500 words containing advice plus philosophy, rolled into one, as to how serious political change is needed to save our world from the twin threats of (a) slow death due to continuing growth economies, and (b), a fast death caused by the bomb, being thrown because of “human error” when coupled with “fighting”, which of course is and has been ever present in all us humans from day one.....!!!

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> —— and that more or less takes us up to the present day when, if I see something that needs putting right, and if I have the necessary energy, I am still ready and willing to throw a punch on nature’s behalf.....

>a final comment about my amateur philosophy...

>although I am and always have been a slow thinker, having only scraped over the line with a lowly 3rd class degree from Trinity College Dublin, I like to remind those who are taking the Mickie out of me, of that rather complicated mathematical equation.....speed times time equals distance.....yes, I have a very slow mind, but just look at the time travelled....35 years....so surely, with luck, there will be some useful philosophical mileage in what ever the distance was that we ended up with.....that’s my story anyway.....also, I have just

remembered, that I learned fairly recently, circa 2019, that the basic philosophy in my little book that started things off, (Phil the Fluter's Game of Life), was very similar to that of the ancient Greeks....(Arête etc.... maximising one's virtue and talent to achieve proper fulfilment from your time on Earth..).....how's about that.....

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>OOOOOKKKKKKKK.....SO WHAT ABOUT THEM PAINTINGS.....luckily, they are all watercolours and not in frames, so they don't take up space.....the paintings that I have start from aprox 2001.....which is the year I took the first of 6 yearly visits to a little Greek island called Lipsi, under the tutelage of Ron Ranson. There were about 20+ of us amateurs on these trips. We had great fun and Ron was a fantastic teacher, repeatedly drumming in the main rules of design. I was also on other courses during that period, which was when I was doing my best to leave the 'beginners' stage behind. 2007-15 were good years, when I was goofing off from work for 5-6 weeks of painting holidays a year, visiting lovely painting locations in Europe. Again, all with amateur painting groups under professional guidance. This was when my own painting style was coming through....mainly simple, strong and understandable paintings....never too fussy, arty or intellectualised. And I suppose that style remains with me to this day, with maybe a few improvements along the way. I have also had fun over the last year or two, when I can find the energy, of reworking some of these old paintings, pulling them together and making them even stronger with the introduction of strong black lines!.....my paintings are usually strong enough to take these lines on the chin, and they usually help, not hinder.

> I have had fun (??) trying to tabulate what I have, and will shortly have to think of some form of safe storage.....who knows...maybe the philosophy may hit the light of day, and kick off some interest in the paintings or visa versa....so thinks Walter Mitty.....

> PS.....a couple of years ago, 2021, I wrote a little pamphlet, talking about some of the painting holidays I have had along the way, as well as explaining why, late in life, I took to allowing myself to put strong black lines in my paintings if I wanted to...the title of the pamphlet is "LATE TWIST FOR ANCIENT ART GROUPIE"....again, to be found in Section 7 of 'anordinaryprophet'.....

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> FINALLY....this year, 2024, I have had fun putting myself on YTUBE, as follows....

> ——Reading my "9 letters to the Church". (title)...these letters really encapsulate all of my philosophy, and end up with (letters7,8,9,) tying a very logical knot which completes the circle of my philosophy. There are 4-5 parts in each letter, one part of which shows some of my paintings.

> Each letter takes about 25 minutes.

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> ——Reading "LETTER TO WORLD LEADERS"..(title)...6 parts in total, two of which show my paintings. Total time, just less than one hour.

> —— Reading "Letter to COP26", which takes 37 minutes. In 5 parts, one of which shows my paintings.

> —— Reading letter to schools, titled "Your Balance of Invisible Wealth", which takes 27 minutes. Made in 3 parts, one of which shows my paintings.

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> And that is a rough up to date summary of what this old man has to think about when he wakes up at a quarter to two in the morning....!!.....philip A.