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## Julian Rose

Julian Rose was born in March 1947, on the Hardwick Estate in South Oxfordshire's Chiltern Hills, the youngest of four children to the heir of the thousand acre estate and baronetcy, passed down from his great grandfather.

On leaving school, Julian sought to harmonise strong artistic aspirations with the demands and responsibilities of his new found role as a 'landowner'.

Returning to the UK in 1967, he worked alongside his mother, developing the estate's farming and forestry enterprises. In 1969 he moved to London and won a place at the Royal Academy of Dramatic Art, going on to work in regional repertory theatres as an actor/stage manager.

He moved back to Hardwick in 1983, to become a full time farmer, completing the conversion of the estate to organic farming methods, a process started in 1975, making him one of the pioneers of this ecological land management system. Joining the board of the Soil Association in 1984, Julian became involved in an intense campaign to promote ecological food and farming in the face of the rapid rise of industrial agriculture.

Julian also gained notoriety as both a defender and promoter of holistic approaches to the rejuvenation of struggling rural economies. Notably his unremitting insistence on the need to support local and regional, as opposed to 'global', food economies. An approach coined in a formula he named "The Proximity Principle". He sought to raise awareness of the need to build a dynamic balance between economic, social and environmental concerns. Never just one or the other.

In 1990 he took on the position of agricultural correspondent of the green broadsheet 'Environment Now', becoming one of the first UK activists to warn of the impending dangers of genetically modified foods.

In 2000 Julian was invited to become a co-director of the International Coalition to Protect the Polish Countryside, co-launching a highly successful 'Campaign for a GMO Free Poland' as well as leading a high profile defense of peasant farmers whom he holds up as the true guardians of biodiversity throughout the world.

**C**reative Solutions  
to a World in Crisis

*The Power of Locality*

**Julian Rose**

## **Dixi Books**

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“This book is the second edition of ‘Changing Course for Life’ which was previously published in February 2009”.

Creative Solutions to a World in Crisis

Julian Rose

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# Creative Solutions to a World in Crisis

*The Power of Locality*

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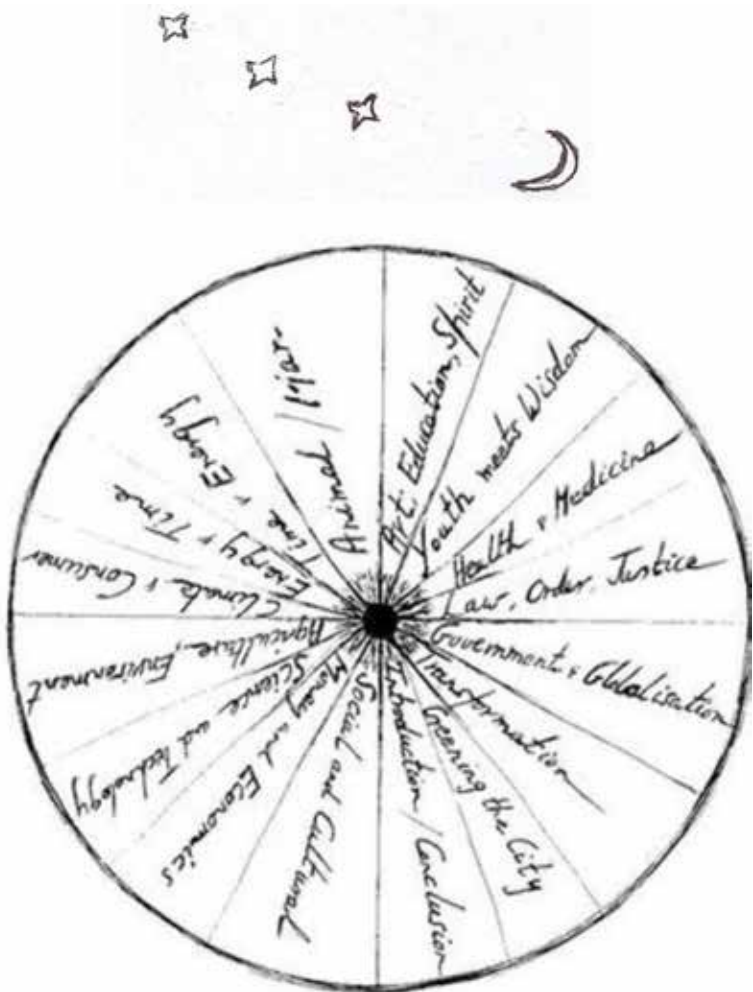


*The Voice of the New Age*



*This book is dedicated to all those who seek the truth and wish to use it to transform our planetary way of life.*

*Special thanks to Jadwiga Lopata for her ceaseless encouragement and thoughtful comments.*







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# **P**reface for New Issue of **Changing Course for Life**

Friends,

I am very pleased that Dixi Books have decided to re-launch *Changing Course for Life* under its new title. The information it carries is even more relevant today, as global problems threaten to swamp local solutions. Solutions that contain all the right ingredients to greatly ameliorate the crisis that surrounds us at this apocalyptic moment in the history of the planet.

We humans are full of creative potential, but all too often find ourselves pouring this talent into daily work experiences that leave no scope for its expression. This is one of the first areas of 'wasted energy' that we need to face up to if we are to make a positive impact on our surroundings and fellow travellers.

After all, how long do each of us have on this beautiful planet? No one knows; but what they do know is that around 70% of the time we spend here, is devoted to trying to earn enough money to survive and prosper. Most of our energy lands up helping irresponsible corporations improve their profit margins, while we find ourselves becoming increasingly 'cyborgian', in debt and stuck firmly in the nine to five daily grind.

It is time to take a brave step away from the cruel hoax that ties us into this treadmill. It's time to leap into the beckoning world of creative commitment to change for the better. That which expresses our real reason for being here in the first place. There are a plethora of 'real jobs' to be done on our beleaguered planet, all of them calling out for a nur-

turing and compassionate approach to that which nourishes and provides for us, but which is forgotten in the rush to 'make it' in the commercial world of material ambition.

Between the covers of this small book you will find guidance concerning this path I'm encouraging you to take. You can jump in anywhere, as each chapter tells its own story and expresses its own passion for positive outcomes. However, if you start at the beginning and read on – you will discover a certain rhythm, a certain melodic theme, which develops as one goes along.

Life is an art, but not one to be practised in seclusion. The art of living is in joining together and facing, head-on, the often seemingly impossible challenges that confront us all. This is the way to banish fear and to bring joy into our lives and the lives of others. That is our calling – and nothing else should be allowed to deviate us from following that path.

Julian Rose  
May 2018

# Preface

*“In a time of universal deceit telling the truth is a revolutionary act.”* George Orwell

Our present system of ‘democracy’ has failed us and it has failed our planet. Those who hold positions of power are neither able nor willing to face up to reality, let alone arrive at a common agreement how to deal with it. Because of this, we have to take over.

You are sitting on the couch watching television, the relentless and often apocalyptic news items, the compensatory superficial entertainment, the false smiles and pretty pictures – the whole commercial and politically driven package. For so long you have allowed yourself to slip under the beguiling influence of this package.

But suddenly you realise that it is a carefully constructed and strictly censored sham, and that you can’t stand it anymore. You jump up from the sofa with a newly acquired sense of resolution – and turn off the set. It’s a crucial step in the new journey you are about to embark on; the first step in changing course for life.

This book explores the background to these failings and the actions needed to reverse them, in order to achieve lasting, positive change. It is a truly exciting, challenging and necessary task. Since the rot is severely advanced in all spheres of society, only bottom-up, root and branch reform can effectively heal the sickness.

We have to take back control over our lives and reorder society from the foundations up. In so doing, we will re-

invent communities, revive our own sense of purpose and light a cleansing fire that will eventually transform the way we live, sweeping clean the power mongers in the process.

This process has already begun, sporadically, and in pockets, but now we need the courage and conviction to engage in it on a broader scale and with a real sense of urgency.

The immediate aim is to transform local and regional government authorities into dynamic 'hubs' of people led resistance to negative change, and into active centres of positive change. Instead of taking piecemeal steps in one or two areas of outstanding concern, be they environmental, economic, cultural, medical etc. – we are called upon to set in motion the necessary steps that will eventually lead to a complete overhaul of *all* the component parts of our everyday way of life... because every one of them is suffering a crisis of similar magnitude, and only by tackling the totality can we achieve genuine change for the better.

In order to create genuine forward momentum on the ground we have to know what we mean and understand by 'education', 'culture', 'justice', 'energy', 'economics' and 'government'. We have to see how they connect up with each other and in what way they can be transformed and brought back to life; thus healing the deep wounds and schisms caused by decades of misinterpretation, neglect and abuse.

Many valuable environmental and community actions are already in existence all over the world. Every day new ones are starting up, and little beacons of light can be detected everywhere.

However, a quantum leap in applied creativity, imagination and practical skills is now needed to offset, and ultimately overcome, the unabating levels of destruction simultaneously manifesting themselves all around us. Destruction, not just of our environment and planetary resourc-

es, but of the values and ethics that keep societies healthy and secure. The callous disregard that most of our political figureheads show for anything other than their own morbid fascination in the power game, should, by now, have woken us up to the realisation that it is pointless, and even downright destructive, to keep re-electing them.

If we continue to play by the rules of this political game, we can expect to suffer at the hands of our own foolishness. We have to change the rules and the game, uniting our energies and channelling our creativity into actions whose roots are firmly planted in a process of local and regional rejuvenation. And, at the same time, we finally have to be able to say a resounding NO to the constant stream of debilitating and seductive compromises that so easily trap and enslave our unwary souls into submission to the moribund 'status quo'.

Continuously accepting ever more restrictive clamps upon our civil liberties and human aspirations ultimately weakens and confuses us, making us cannon fodder for the all consuming appetites of corporate pirates and political apologists.

There is nothing more important to do now than to take the authority to control our lives out of such people's hands, and to pour our energies into securing a resurgent future for largely self-governing human scale communities throughout the world.

Every day, small, well intentioned actions, directed towards this end can be taken by us all – bigger actions will soon follow. Then one day, as the momentum builds, great results will be manifest and a process of transformation will come about. We only need to get started – *and not give up.*

*Julian Rose  
January 2009*





# I ntroduction

*"The world is a dangerous place, not because of those who do evil, but because of those who look on and do nothing."*

Albert Einstein

It was at some point in my early thirties that I recall having the first thoughts of writing a book.

It was a quiet and somewhat distant voice at that time, but quite persistent. However, over two decades later, in 2007, on a pleasant late June evening in the Malopolska village of Stryzow (Poland), the event suddenly sprung to life. This time the call demanded immediate attention.

I was describing at some length the need to draw up a plan to comprehensively reform and reorder society from the bottom up. Some special gatherings would be needed, I suggested, bringing together key individuals able to help launch a comprehensive action plan.

When I finished my description, Jadwiga Lopata, my partner, (being of a direct Polish nature) simply said "It's a book, it is meant for many people to read and respond to."

As the sun slowly set over the Beskidi hills, I gradually absorbed this information. Somehow I knew it to be true. The sun set, and a silvery crescent moon rose in its place. It was a beautiful clear evening. At a forty-five degree angle from the centre of the crescent moon, rising up into the night sky were three bright stars, symmetrically spaced and crystal clear.

Now, dear reader, I want to share with you the outcome

of the seven intensive months which followed, in -and between- three countries: Poland, England and India, all places where we are actively pursuing an intensive campaign to highlight the values of traditional and ecological farming practices and to try and raise support to rid the world of genetically modified organisms.

Essentially, all the book revolves around -and relates to- the implementation of an action plan to “take control of life/our lives at the local level.”

Each chapter is presented as a self contained essay. Each essay encompasses a different, yet closely connected expression of one overall concern: just as many refractions of light emanate from one diamond. Our ability to aid the great curing and healing process that our planet and ourselves must undergo, rests upon a deepening recognition that our living, breathing cosmos with its vast diversity of stars and planets, is manifest as a ‘oneness of many parts’.

The many parts (of life) are dealt with by giving a chapter to each key earthly concern: i.e. Environment, Agriculture, Culture, Spirit, Economics, Science, Energy, Education, Communication, Art, Politics, Climate, Health and Justice. In each of these spheres, the book explores what has gone wrong, and proposes specific reforms required to transform our society for the better.

It is essentially a call to action, a manual for change. I would never have attempted to write such a book in any other spirit than this. It speaks to the Universal Spirit in all of us which longs for deep and lasting change – and is prepared to go out and fight for it.

*February 2008*