

ET ~ thinking afresh?

The Elephant Times is about reflecting on issues, sharing ideas and thinking about the implications for teaching.



In this first year six issues of Elephant Times have been produced.

Thank you to the 65 people involved in writing. This gives us a considerable body of ideas to build on. The key challenge now is to do that building.

They are all available online: [Elephant Times](#)

To bring in the New Year a booklet:

‘What is it about Tide~ and Elephants?’ was published. [\[Click on cover\]](#)

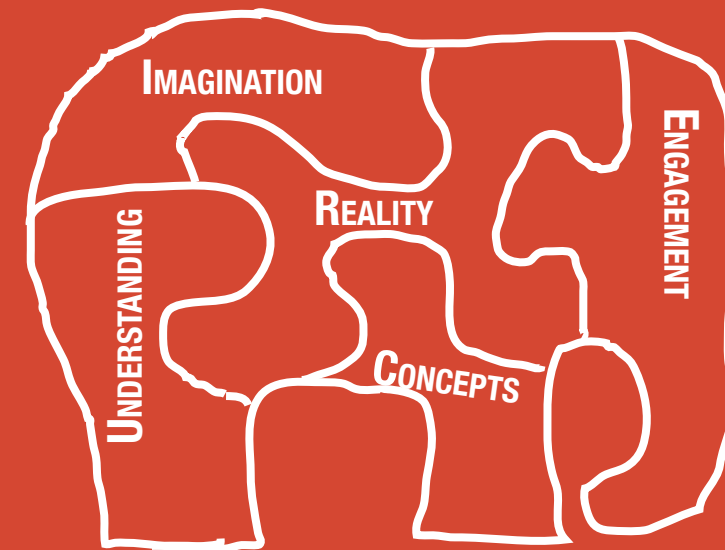
It included several suggestions for a Tide~ Elephant Jigsaw for 2021 including the one opposite by Darius Jackson.



What is it about Tide~ and elephants?

Events in 2020 have highlighted the need as Clive Harber & Jeff Serf put it [\[ET 1-22\]](#)

“to consider afresh the challenges of engaging learners in contemporary controversial issues with appropriate professionalism”



As long ago as 1959 C. Wright Mills* described the sense of powerlessness. This sense of powerlessness is, if anything, even worse today.

Our young confront an impersonal, uncertain future where even examination results are unreliable and can be changed overnight. Education is about equipping our young people, not only, to live in this world but to make the changes needed to make life sustainable, enjoyable and just.

At the heart of my elephant is **reality**; we live in a world of events and processes that exist independently of our imperfect knowledge. Put simply Covid 19 exists, whether I know about it or not, simply ignore it or even deny it really exists.

To develop an **understanding** of the world we need to use the concepts of diverse disciplines, it is through the application of these **concepts** to the events and other accounts that we see the nature of our world. However, these **concepts** also provide a critique of the world; how is it possible to talk about Human Rights, human dignity or Justice when around 1.5 million children under 5 years old die of diarrhoea every year?

This leads us to the importance of **imagination** in conceptualising a more just, sustainable and pleasant world and the **engagement** needed to bring us closer to this ‘green and pleasant land’.

* W C Wright Mills (1959) The Sociological Imagination New York Oxford University Press

By Darius Jackson





A pamphlet 'A new vision for 2021' was published. [Click on cover]

It outlined a plan to revitalise Tide~ creating a sustainable **Network Hub** to facilitate the voluntary work of Trustees and those co-opted to take lead roles in co-ordinating Tide~ activity.

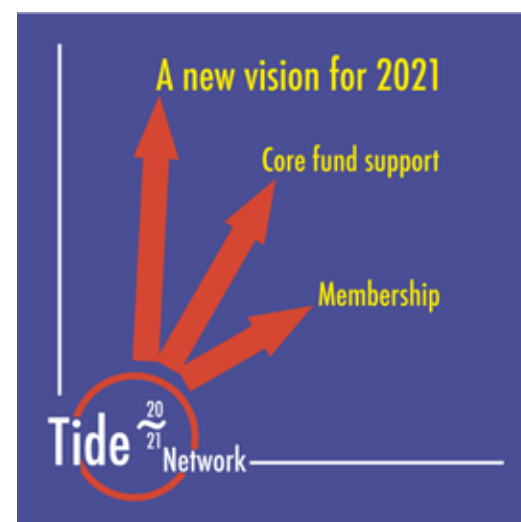


A time for new models of global learning?

This raises core matters - e.g. Mick Waters [ET 2-20] on "a curriculum that educates" and Chris Durbin on global citizenship [ET 2-18]

Dorit Braun. Let's talk about Covid 19 [ET 2-14]

"Never has it been more important to enable and encourage young people to assess and evaluate information, to recognise their own assumptions and prejudices and those of others, to review those assumptions and be willing to change their opinions and ideas on the basis of new information and ideas."



Our biggest asset - people & ideas

What would you bring to the Tide~ agenda?



The development of an issue of the ET has become the focus for a Tide~ project at School of Education, University of Worcester.

See ET [6]



Welcome to the ET Tide~ AGM issue.

This AGM will be the first of the new network ... a network that aspires to have many of the qualities of the old one, not least the focus on the role of teachers and the need to design 'space' for teacher creativity to respond to contemporary global concerns.

At the last AGM the idea of winding Tide~ up looked like the responsible path. Work on the [Tide~ website](#) and in particular making [Tide~ Publications](#) available to download for free, demonstrated interest. This led to the idea of an online magazine. We chose **Elephant Times** as a distinctive, if a little quirky, title because it symbolised communication and co-operation.

The first five ETs have highlighted a wealth of experience and generated questions pointing to the potential - and the need - for revitalising Tide~.

ET 6 results from an ET Project in partnership with School of Education, University of Worcester. It features an Ubuntu theme. [see page 12]

Thank you to all that have contributed. **Thank you** also to those that have become members. And **thank you** to those that have donated to help establish a core budget that makes all this voluntary work possible.

Building on this work and the many ideas that have been shared we are now in a position, at the **Annual General Meeting**, to discuss the next phase ... seeking to engage a wider range of school practitioners.

It is proposed, in addition to continuing work on the Elephant Times and the SDGs curriculum development project, that we focus on two key themes:

1. **Commonwealth Awareness** and making the most of the learning opportunity of the Games in Birmingham in 2022. [see page 8]
2. **Connecting Dialogues** and the development of a Tide~ framework that a) gives focus to an approach and b) provides context to a variety of small projects. [see page 20]

The other key dimension to revitalising the network is about engaging new members and supporting them to take on lead roles in Tide~ and its projects.

I look forward to hearing views at the Zoom AGM -- [7.30 on 17th June]

Scott Sinclair Chair of Tide~ Trustees

Please sign up to the AGM
to receive Zoom link