

A letter on world citizenship, Martin Jackson

Sixty years ago a young American airforce pilot, Gary Davis, inspired by the 'We the Peoples' promise in the pre-amble to the UN Charter, publicly burnt his US passport and declared himself world citizen number one.

Scores of young people across the globe enthused by the Davies initiative signed up the World Citizens. In the UK the townsfolk of Chelmsford held a referendum, and voted to declare themselves a one world municipality. In the southern US state of Tennessee the electorate voted the lawyer, Fyke Farmer, as their representative to the hoped-for World Parliament. In Europe other towns and communities followed Chelmsford's mundialisation movement, announcing themselves part of the world community. Other initiatives included the creation of international aid agencies like Medecins Sans Frontieres.

Today, 60 years after Davis, the concept of 'world citizenship and mundialisation' continues to thrive. In Britain, recognising that the problems of global warming, third world poverty and the nuclear proliferation can only be tackled through a one world approach, we are celebrating 60 years of the 'Gary Davis Initiative', by re-launching the concept of 'world citizenship and mundialisation' of local communities.

We are not in competition with other groups that seek cross-border initiatives like UNA-UK, the Greens, Federal Union and nuclear disarmers, but are a partner and supporter of their aims.

World citizens recognise they share a loyalty to all human kind beyond that of nationality.

If you believe global problems require global solutions you are already a world citizen.