

New Malthusians

SIR - Following the Duke of Sussex's intervention in population politics, "eco-minded families" advising on "the environmental impact of being a parent" suggest that life is only sustainable if you are middle-class, live on a smallholding and weave your own muesli. But to have even one child is the greatest sin against the planet, according to Blythe Pepino, the founder of Birthstrike and a member of Extinction Rebellion (Features, August 1).

Like Thomas Malthus, these campaigners regard people only as mouths to feed. Seeing no benefit in babies, they are also oblivious to those whose livelihoods depend on making the things that they pride themselves on not buying.

While the tree-hugging community thinks that money grows on trees, we all seem to think children grow on trees. In real life they take more time and trouble to mature, and it may be only when the tree of life is bare that we finally realise this basic fact.

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A TX 3.8.0219