can make believe

only understand the reptilian side of this by doing that, so I don't talk about that in the media because it's a waste of time.³

Adopting the silly voice again, he rants, "'Oh, he says lizards run the world'." Back to normal, he adds: "If people want to know about it they'll read my books. It's there in great length."

When you know what I know you can't walk away from it.

In 15 to 20 years we will all be living in a "global fascist state" he assures me. People should "just read Orwell's 1984" if they want to learn what the future holds. "But then add a bit more because it's actually more extreme than even he envisaged, but he was close.'

The conversation continues with insights as diverse as that human microchipping will soon be widespread, that we're living in a "holographic version of the Internet" and that children are regularly being sacrificed on the Isle

of Wight (and everywhere else for that matter) – it's a lot to take on board. For Icke, his life changed forever after

a string of bizarre experiences in the late 1980s when he persistently sensed a strange presence around him.

A visit to a hands-on-healer finally revealed what he had been searching for.

Recollecting the moment, he says: "I'm a national spokesman for the Green Party and I'm introducing the sport, and this thing is telling her that I'm going to go out on a world stage eventually and reveal great secrets that one man cannot change the world, but one man can communicate the message that can change the world. That there was a shadow across the world that had to be lifted, a story that had to be told and I was going to face enormous opposition doing it.

"They, whoever they are, I still don't know that, said they were always going to be there to protect me. I'm sitting there thinking you're having a laugh, but from that moment my life changed very quickly, very dramatically.'

Before long, twice-married Icke got the call to appear on Wogan. By this stage the BBC had not renewed his contract and he was no longer with the Greens.

"They wanted to talk to me because I

was in all the papers because this strange thing had happened," he says.

"I didn't care about the effect on my career because there was no career.' The fall-out from the infamous interview for his family was devastating.

"I couldn't walk down any street in Britain without being laughed at. My kids were ridiculed at school.'

And while Icke claims he does not care, many people are still laughing. If there is one thing that he does

convince me of, it is his complete and utter confidence in his beliefs. Incredibly articulate and fiercely intelligent, he is a man who remains

on a mission to change the world. "I'm 56 in a month, what have I got

ten years, 20 years maybe?" he says. "I'm not doing this for me. I ain't going to have to live the rest of my life in an Orwellian nightmare.

"The children of today and the grandchildren of today are going to have to be living it. That's my motivation, that's what pushes me on.

"It may be bizarre but I want the people who abuse me to be free as well." This is a man who remains convinced that we won't be laughing at him for much longer.

It's like me a few centuries ago saying to you, 'the Earth's round it ain't flat, all right?

