

## **February Newsletter from PEAT**

*'The most radical thing any of us can do is to be fully present to what is happening in the world.'* Joanna Macy

How hard is that to do? Especially when the news is so grim most days. Especially when we are advised to protect ourselves from too much information. Especially when we consider how the US has pulled out of the Paris Agreement, how our own government is moving to support a third Heathrow runway, and how the Climate and Nature Bill has been delayed, amongst the many other disappointing other things. What was already a hard road feels so much harder. How easy would it be to ignore it all and live in our own bubble? How do we make sense of that and still continue to believe the future can be better, fairer, greener.

Some thoughts to ponder on. In this busy, individualistic world we live in, it's easy to only think of our own timespan, and indeed that our own timespan is the most important. Check out this short film made by Richard Fisher, *'The 22nd Century People Living Amongst Us'*. \* It's one of three films he has made about Deep Time. In it he talks about how our family ties extend well into the past and the future, and any child born now will likely see in the next century, the 22nd century. It made me think that if we can locate ourselves in a much bigger time span, we see ourselves as part of a much bigger story, and as part of the next stage of human evolution. It helps us to see that change is happening right now, through us.

Joanna Macy in her book *'Active Hope'* encourages us to become part of that process by asking the question *'how do you hope that humans will develop?'* In other words what do we want to turn towards and what do we want to turn away from? She says in *'this way, we become active in the process of supporting the kind of evolution we hope for.'*

For example, who knew that in the midst of the widespread disbelief at the instant withdrawal from the Paris Agreement by the US, there is also a US Climate Alliance where twenty four states have pledged to continue the goals of the Paris Agreement. A remarkable glimmer of hope and an example of turning towards the future we want.

Not all of us operate on that scale, but at our recent talk on hedgehogs Lyndon Howson talked about his commitment to making our environment more hedgehog friendly. Something we can all do, inspiring us to turn to the future we want to stand for, and something our 22nd century children may still be able to see.

At PEAT we want to play our part in being active in turning towards the future we want. We were successful in applying for a small grant from Cumbria Action for Sustainability to initiate a 'Big Conversation' on the Cartmel Peninsula to do just that, and to be part of the kind of evolution we would wish for, to reimagine the place where we live, starting with a specific emphasis on transport. We will be collecting your views, stories, hopes in imaginative ways, and will be publicising the how and where in the next month or so. In the meantime some questions to consider

- what do you deeply hope for?
- what do we need to invest in to support future transformation?
- who can we learn from ?

As I write this I have come to realise that being radically fully present to what's is happening in the world, is more than just the news, the bad news, and what is happening today. It's being aware of ourselves, what direction we choose to turn towards and what do we turn away from. Moreover remembering we are part of the evolution and future for our 22nd and 23rd century children. Makes you think?

As ever we are as relevant and as effective as our membership, please join us in helping to shape the future we wish to stand for @ [peatmessages@gmail.com](mailto:peatmessages@gmail.com) You should have had a recent email from me about next year's subscriptions. A reminder is here.

The £5 subscription can be sent by BACS to:

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### **PEAT Activities/asks**



- **Wednesday March 25th 7-9pm AGM - Methodist Church Grange** If you are interested in becoming more involved in whatever capacity, on the committee, as a volunteer or speaker, come along and introduce yourself
- **May 27th 7-9pm Tim Bloomer Fell Brewery**, and our local councillor will speak about **'Decarbonisation of Beer'** - venue tbc
- We would like to talk to any schools out there involved with the **CAFS climate leadership** work, or who has undertaken the ClimateFresk event, please get in touch

- **Westmorland and Furness Council** is inviting local businesses, community groups, charities and schools to share their views on a potential new **Circular Hub** for the area. This initiative is part of the council's ongoing efforts, supported by Innovate UK's Pathfinder funding, to explore innovative solutions for achieving rural net zero. The concept of a circular economy focuses on keeping products and materials in use for as long as possible through repair, reuse, recycling, and composting. Check out the link to the survey. <https://www.westmorlandandfurness.gov.uk/news/2025/council-seeks-input-potential-circular-economy-hub> Any additional feedback send to [peatmessages@gmail.com](mailto:peatmessages@gmail.com)
- <https://actionnetwork.org/petitions/tell-cumbria-pension-fund-that-time-is-up-for-investing-in-fossil-fuels?nowrapper=true&referrer=&source=> Divest in fossil fuel funded pensions



## A pick of some of the information that comes through to PEAT

### South Lakes

- <https://www.morecambebay.org.uk/be-inspired/new-whats-on> - From Foot to Feast: Explore Hampsfell & Dine with a view -Thursday 3rd April 9.30 - 3.30pm

### Cumbria

- <https://www.facebook.com/100064874550463/posts/pfbid02W3dgcaQA93VjBdFv2UzrJgtiHyCP9EX9xZT4pMQxgE3MDZg96SaBTBAnDpy1dmrCl/?> - Help shape the future - Last week, 10,000 randomly selected households received an invitation to the Cumbria Climate Assembly. This initiative seeks to gather people from all walks of life to discuss climate change and explore ways to address it.
- <https://youtu.be/MuU9G1KmVI4> Just over the border - local residents in Bentham are pursuing legal action because of "forever chemicals" known as PFAS polluting their homes.
- <https://www.cumbriawildlifetrust.org.uk/podcasts> - Latest Cumbria Wildlife Podcast

### UK

- <https://www.theguardian.com/environment/2025/jan/30/rosebank-oilfield-jackdaw-decision-unlawful-edinburgh-court> - Rosebank oilfield go-ahead decision ruled unlawful by Edinburgh court
- <https://theconversation.com/expanding-heathrow-is-incompatible-with-net-zero-heres-the-evidence-248090> - Expansion of Heathrow incompatible with the evidence
- <https://www.desmog.com/2025/01/23/the-coming-climate-uncertainty-conundrum/> Rupert Read - The Coming Climate Uncertainty Conundrum

### Global

- <https://unearthed.greenpeace.org/> - Update from Greenpeace on global issues
- <https://theconversation.com/10-reasons-why-us-president-elect-donald-trump-cant-derail-global-climate-action-243251> - Reason why Trump can't derail climate action



### Resources

- \* <https://www.bbc.co.uk/reel/video/p0f7sx0n/the-22nd-century-people-living-among-us>
- <https://www.climateemotionalhealth.net/resources> Climate Emotion Wheel

### A couple of links to lighten your day

- <https://youtu.be/0uZs1z5msug> - Albatross chick returned to parent
- <https://fb.watch/xv1doPVpPa/?> - Andy Goldsworthy - Artistic Expressions in Nature



### Useful sites of information

- <https://slacc.org.uk/> South Lakes Action for Climate Change - done brilliant work on the coal mine and Waste into Wellbeing
- <https://www.morecambebay.org.uk> Morecambe Bay Partnership -The only charity solely dedicated to connecting people with the nature, culture and heritage of Morecambe Bay.
- <https://cafs.org.uk/> - Cumbria Action for Sustainability- many many great events most are free
- <https://unearthed.greenpeace.org/> Greenpeace - courageous work
- <https://www.clientearth.org/what-we-do/> ClientEarth - good for information and campaigns

Kindest regards Annette - Chair of PEAT

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