



PEAT March Newsletter 'The Meaning of Life'

Douglas Adams in the 'The Hitchhiker's Guide to the Galaxy' wrote '*The answer to the ultimate question of life, the universe and everything is 42.*' Over the years many have tried to fathom what he meant by this but he always maintained that it was just a number he thought was funny! What if the meaning of life was that simple?

Have you noticed how spring creeps up on you? Stealthily step by step amidst what we still imagine as winter, it emerges. Signs of spring start to happen driven by some long hidden, unstoppable urge to come to life, bringing colour, birdsong, a surge of growth, more light. Many times recently I've heard '*doesn't it make you feel better to think spring is on its way.*' This week has seen a parade, an alignment of seven planets, which is unlikely to occur again until 2040. A real conversation starter and many making a special effort to go outside in the cold night air to witness it, and be part of this phenomenon. Makes me wonder what else can happen as a result of the planets aligning?

All of those feelings of resurgence, renewal and connection remind us that we too are part of the natural world. We feel more inclined to get outside, to do things, there's a restless energy in me, in us. How might this be put to good use? As Joanna Macy says '*what comes through us?*' Of course as a daffodil, a robin, an apple tree what comes through you happens naturally.

Change for the better can feel impossible and that it's getting harder all the time. Given all that we know about what is happening in the world, it feels like we are living in exceptional, extreme and existential times. Opinions and positions are becoming more entrenched, more polarised, provoking on the one hand denial, fear, faction, blaming, and creation of the 'other'. It gives permission for actions like the recent announcement by BP to increase oil and gas production '*we now plan to fundamentally reset our strategy and drive further improvements in performance, all in service of growing cash flow and returns.*' Echoing '*drill baby drill*' from across the water.

But it is also a source of action, propulsion, community and a desire to see a different future. Have you ever wondered what it takes for seemingly impossible situations to be settled, resolved, pulled back from the brink, turned around? How is it even possible to go from conflict to peace, disbelief to a way forward, denial to movement?

It's so easy to get dispirited by the enormity of what we are facing, even though in our beautiful, peaceful peninsula it seems far away, or is it? How often do we hear the gremlins on our shoulder saying, '*it's not your business, someone else will do it, who do you think you are, you're not articulate enough, informed enough, too radical, not radical enough, uninteresting, not the right person.*' How many times do those critical voices hold us back? Yetwe all have a role to play, we will all be called upon to respond.

The benefit of history and hindsight can strengthen us, looking back at major societal change, for example when women gained the vote, when smoking was banned in public places, or even accepting the earth does revolve around the sun. Initially it was seen as a joke, then as a threat, then accepted as normal. Change isn't linear, frustration and disappointment will always occur, we just need to find the capacity and courage to continue.

I recently went to a talk called 'Finding Hope in a Hopeless World'. The talk itself was uplifting but even more so was the fact that there were so many people present. I was astonished to see so many there, well over 300 people in the room. Being in the company of so many others who also believe things can change and can change for the better, was a real tonic. It generated energy, enthusiasm and a sense of more is possible together.

Bringing your restless energy, your activism to the fore. It's become a word that folk want to distance themselves from, but in it's broadest sense we are all involved in the process of activism wherever we are, with whatever we have, at work, at home or at leisure. Someone once asked me a great question which I'm still working on - *'if you knew you couldn't fail what would you do to make a difference'*.

On that note closer to home can you help by getting involved in local democracy at a micro level? Can you attend town and parish council meetings or ask to be on the distribution list for agendas/minutes. In that way we can watch and monitor planning applications, read and respond to consultation documents. If we can show we care about what's happening at a really local level we can influence outcomes, as the saying goes, *'no decisions made without us.'*

Turning again to the meaning of life, what if it was as simple as the question of *'what comes through you, us, me?'* Where will your spring, your renewal, your resurgence take you? Come and join in the green shoots of making a difference with us at PEAT at peatmessages@gmail.com



PEAT Activities/asks

- **Tuesday 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. More information will follow about the AGM in a separate email. Alistair Kilbride will be our guest speaker. He is a specialist in low carbon travel in rural areas and we will be working with him on our project on the Cartmel Peninsula
- **Saturday April 26th - 1- 4pm Allithwaite Village Hall - Craft Destash** If you want a stall text **Janet Jackson 07713255238** We had a great turn out last year of volunteers and will be looking for volunteers again nearer the time
- **Tuesday May 27th 7-9pm - Flookburgh Village Hall - Tim Bloomer Fell Brewery**, and our local councillor will speak about **'Decarbonisation of Beer'**
- 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
- <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
- Thanks to all the PEAT volunteers who have been doing the free Thermal Imaging Surveys. Great work. As the weather is getting warmer it's something we will return to again later in the year
- <https://www.crowdjustice.com/case/stop-cumbria-coal-mine-again/> Please help us defend the legal precedents we, together with concerned citizens from Weald Action Group, Friends of the Earth and Stop Rosebank . Share our new [CrowdJustice page](#) and donate if you are genuinely able to spare some money for this cause.



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



South Lakes

- **Tuesday 25th March 7pm Cartmel Fell Parish Hall L11 6NH 'Thriving' film 7.30pm** Tickets £5 on the door, cash preferred. This is the story of Clare Dyson's 200 mile journey across Cumbria on her horse, Merry, in 2022. She sets off from Cartmel Fell, travels through the beautiful landscape, meeting farmers along the way. Clare Dyson will be present also for a discussion on what she learned in the making of the film. To ensure you get a seat contact team@cartmelfellvolunteers.com to go on the guest list

- <https://www.facebook.com/100064492907927/posts/pfbid036c6JaWkbBAv1EwmHsdXQSCtKLtyP5sTivrPLu7zvhr67gLV3AzmBxLEbCgHV2nidl/> When We Sing, It Brings us Closer Using Singing to Support Global Links and Climate Education in Your School



Cumbria

- <https://www.cumbriafoundation.org/apply-for-a-grant/grant-priorities/> Cumbria Community Foundation now allocating grants to projects involving climate change
- <http://www.sustainablestaveley.org.uk/event/the-magic-mystery-tragedy-of-the-swift/> Talk on the magic of swifts



UK

- <https://www.bbc.co.uk/sounds/play/m0027twr> Evan Davis examines the business opportunities of companies which offer to repair things from clothes through to electronics
- <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/15-million-food-surplus-fund-now-open-for-applications> Food redistribution charities can submit applications for grants starting at £20,000
- <https://www.facebook.com/100064757498450/posts/pfbid02V9mtKFD34vUor7ranL6qZtPorMQ2StcLjfB8uGHYrUyipba2eJePChFMEf7nZfzVl/?app=fbl> Protect pollinators from insecticide petition
- <https://www.positive.news/environment/lush-bread-for-all-placing-affordable-loaves-where-theyre-most-needed/> Affordable bread for all
- <https://www.theguardian.com/commentisfree/2025/feb/18/donald-trump-global-collapse-wildfires-pandemic-financial-crisis> George Monbiot on the impact of Trump



Global

- <https://www.theguardian.com/science/2025/feb/22/technofossils-how-plastic-bags-and-chicken-bones-will-become-our-eternal-legacy> ‘Technofossils’: how humanity’s eternal testament will be plastic bags, cheap clothes and chicken bones
- <https://www.bbc.co.uk/sounds/play/m0027bn5> Climate Crisis - Truth Lies and Compromise - Professor Mike Berners-Lee et al
- <https://www.theguardian.com/us-news/ng-interactive/2025/feb/16/hurricane-helene-north-carolina-fema-rebuild> Everything floated away



Resources

- <https://www.bbc.co.uk/programmes/m00289h4/episodes/player> The development of the Gaia theory
- <https://climateoutreach.org/britain-talks-climate/> A toolkit for engaging the public on climate
- <https://youtube.com/playlistlist=PLMZwDojehLv78nMcbCrBr6HXkFmJLSg2&si=t5PNtrti2HYKZe>
UC Climate Majority Project free climate education resources
- <https://www.climatecoachingalliance.org/seasonal-heartbeats/community-festival/> Community Festival some great speakers in here



A couple of links to lighten your day

- <https://youtu.be/xwOvBv8RLmo> Earthrise by Amanda Gorman
- <https://fb.watch/y5l6LvgKUo/?> Another bird watch - phenomenal



Useful sites of information

- <https://slacc.org.uk/> South Lakes Action for Climate Change - doing 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
- <https://www.activehope.info/> Joanna Macy author & teacher, a scholar of Buddhism, systems thinking and deep ecology. A respected voice in movements for peace, justice, and ecology
- <https://www.woodbrooke.org.uk/> international Quaker learning and research organisation
- <https://climatemajorityproject.com/> Climate Majority Project - a broad based coalition of citizens from grassroots initiatives to high level policy

Kindest regards Annette - Chair of PEAT

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