

DECEMBER NEWSLETTER FROM PEAT

As the year draws to a close, I've found myself noticing common threads running through several recent experiences, a day of resilience training grounded in the work of Joanna Macy, the climate adaptation conversations led by Westmorland and Furness Council, reading about this year's Reith Lectures, A Moral Revolution, and, as always each December, the return of It's a Wonderful Life. On the surface, all are very different, yet together they speak clearly to the times we are living in, and to questions of what we stand for, and the role we choose to play.

Joanna Macy names this time as both the Great Unravelling, as old systems strain and no longer serve, and the Great Turning, the quieter shift towards ways of living rooted in care, connection, and responsibility for the living world. One points to what is breaking down, the other points to what is trying to emerge. Her central question is simple and challenging: how do we live and act when we fully understand that we are part of an interconnected, living system - especially in times of crisis?

In the Westmorland and Furness conversations on climate adaptation, the focus is not just on plans and infrastructure, but on people, on engaging communities, holding honest conversations, and understanding impacts on people, place and services. At heart, the question is how do we become ready for the changes and challenges ahead?

In this year's Reith Lectures, Moral Revolution Rutger Bregman the historian, argues that we are short of moral seriousness, and a shared sense of responsibility for how we live together. History shows, he reminds us, that lasting change begins with small groups of people choosing to act differently, refusing cynicism, and staying engaged. His challenge is direct - are we willing to re-order our priorities so that care, dignity, and responsibility matter more than comfort, status, or growth?

In the profoundly moving film 'It's a Wonderful Life', George Bailey the main character believes he has failed because he measures himself against narrow ideas of success. Only when he sees the world without him does he understand how a life, his life, shaped by care, reliability, and relationships quietly transforms a whole community.

It shows that one person's choices ripple outward. Small acts matter, small acts of kindness, being involved, showing up make a difference, even when it doesn't feel like it at the time. None of this is dramatic. Much of it happens quietly. In everyday actions, relationships, conversations, and shared efforts. Yet taken together, these are the conditions that allow change to happen, and community to build.

As the year turns and we take another turn around the sun, it feels like a good time to think about our own personal revolution. As George Bailey discovers, in 'It's A Wonderful Life' we matter more than we think, and we influence more than we realise. Given the world as it is, how will I, how will you choose to live - and what will I, we stand for?

With every good wish for the season from PEAT. Find us at peatmessages@gmail.com.

PEAT Activities/asks

St Paul's Church Grange over Sands - until 27th December Christmas Tree Festival 'The Greatest Gift' Check out our tree - themed the greatest gift we can give is a healthy planet.

Climate Adaptation conversations - still time to participate in these really important opportunities on line or in person to ask questions and connect with others concerned about climate impact.

<https://www.westmorlandandfurness.gov.uk/news/2025/council-invites-residents-join-climate-adaptation-conversations>

Friday 2nd January 5-7pm Repair Cafe, Grange Methodist Church. Bring your items for repair, or just pop in for a cuppa, cake and a chat.

Tuesday 27th January 7-9pm Grange Methodist Church. Let's Talk- The Future of Transport and Travel on the Cartmel Peninsula - Findings and Next Steps - Barbara Berry Annette Hennessy

Resources

If you have any queries, please get in touch - we may be able to help direct you.

<https://futureproofcumbria.org.uk/> Futureproof Cumbria helps people, communities, and organisations tackle the climate crisis by promoting action and supporting change.

The Climate Majority Project - <https://climatemajorityproject.com/>

The Climate Coalition - www.theclimatecoalition.org/

Greenpeace UK - <https://www.greenpeace.org.uk/>

ClientEarth - <https://www.clientearth.org/>

Climate Outreach <https://climateoutreach.org/>

Kindest regards,

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