

A quiet but dangerous idea has crept into public arena, that nature is somehow in the way, a barrier to development, progress or security. Our environment, biodiversity and natural resources are increasingly reduced to commodities, rather than recognised as the living systems on which all life depends. In this narrative, nature becomes the enemy. The truth is the opposite, nature is not the enemy; it is the foundation of life.

The recently published Nature Security Assessment makes this uncomfortably clear. It shows how accelerating biodiversity loss and ecosystem breakdown now pose real risks to food security, supply chains, economic stability, public health and national security - including here in the UK. Nature loss is no longer a distant environmental concern; it is a systemic risk that touches everyday life.

This analysis echoes a recent speech by Mark Carney, who argues that we are not living through a smooth transition but a deeper rupture. Old assumptions about stability no longer hold. In a world shaped by uncertainty, resilience matters more than prediction. Further, that resilience does not come from extracting ever more from fragile systems; it comes from strengthening the foundations that support us all.

At the same time there is a campaign for a National Emergency Briefing, highlighting how ecological breakdown intersects with climate change, inequality and insecurity. These forces do not act separately - they compound one another. When nature is weakened, everything becomes more fragile. On the surface they belong to different worlds - the environment, economics, and activism yet together they point to a shared truth - many of the challenges we face are interconnected, not isolated.

Why does this matter? Because everything we depend on, food, water, health, local economies, safety and wellbeing rests on functioning ecosystems. When soils degrade, food becomes more difficult to grow, more expensive. When nature is stripped away, flooding, heat and ill health increase. There is no trade-off between people and nature.

Years ago, Václav Havel argued that real power does not always sit with those who appear to hold authority. Often, it lies with ordinary people choosing to live truthfully, refusing quiet compliance, acting with integrity, and staying connected to one another. That insight feels especially relevant now. When problems are framed as too complex or too global to influence, disengagement can feel like the sensible response. But change rarely begins at the centre. It starts at the edges, in local places, through relationships, conversations and shared effort.

Community action matters not because it solves everything, but because it changes something essential - how people see themselves. When people come together to learn, listen and act, however modestly, they move from feeling powerless to discovering agency, power with not over others. This is the quiet strength of community. Global risks can feel overwhelming, but resilience is built close to home in the choices we make, together, now.

Over the last few days we have sent an email about the launch of our first annual programme and subscriptions for 26-27, we very much look forward to you joining us for these events and seeing you during the year.

- **Friday 6th February 5-7pm Repair Cafe @ Grange Methodist Church.** Bring your repairs or just call for a cuppa, cake and a chat
- **Sunday 22nd February 6.30pm for 7pm Green Screen - 'Rave On For the Avon'** **Grange Victoria Hall** is a feature-length documentary that follows campaigners and river lovers through six seasons: their highs and lows, love and loss. If you love our rivers and waterways, this is one for you: positive action by swimmers, boarders, anglers, nature lovers to conserve their river. Advance tickets here, £6 adult, free for 12-16 year olds: <https://www.ticketsource.co.uk/peat>
- **PEAT AGM - Tuesday 17th March 7-9pm @ Grange Methodist Church.** Advance notice



Bits and pieces for this month

- **Futureproof Cumbria** are running a series of four webinars on decarbonisation policy and practice <https://futureproofcumbria.org.uk/events/>
- **Climate Majority Project** - Climate Courage Schools. A brilliant film - use this to spark honest dialogue in your school, community or home <https://climatemajorityproject.com/new/climate-courage-2026>
- **The National Emergency Briefing** is the result of leading experts and concerned citizens joining forces to encourage UK decision-makers to step up their response to the escalating climate and nature crisis <https://www.nebriefing.org/take-action>
- **The War Between the Land and the Sea** - still available on IPlayer - powerful messages about the role of humanity as a force of destruction and good <https://www.bbc.co.uk/programmes/m002dr53>
- **Global biodiversity loss, ecosystem collapse and national security: a national security assessment.** Ecosystem collapse recognised as a critical national security issue by UK government <https://www.naturebasedsolutionsinitiative.org/news/national-security-ecosystem-collapse/>
- **Buddhist march for peace** across America <https://fb.watch/F1-37A4RX8/?fs=e> with **Aloka** the peace dog https://fb.watch/F1-aFWg_rB/?fs=e
- **Herman E Daly** - He questioned the pursuit of economic growth, and articulating the alternative of a steady-state economy, he has been foundational to sustainability science.
- See our **Facebook** page [PEATsouthlakes](#) for many other local activities and openings for work in this area.

If you have any queries, please get in touch - we may be able to help or point you in the right direction.



Resources

- <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/>