

Worrying news:

David Attenborough on the BBC “Extinction – the facts”

Did you see this programme, or at least the trailers for it? It is horrifying that biodiversity on our planet has plummeted by 68% in the last 50 years. He brilliantly ties up all the threads together of

- Climate change
- Competition for and pressure on land use
- Loss of habitat and thus loss of species
- Closer competition with, exploitation of and no longer living in harmony alongside other species
- Increased likelihood of animal viruses jumping species to the human species – (emergence of Covid-19 which is unlikely to be the last pandemic of its kind)

Richard Lilly comments:

To my mind this implies that we have to combine the solutions. We cannot sanitise and isolate our way out of this situation. Everything interconnects, and the only way to move forward is to use the current pandemic as a catalyst to live a more sustainable lifestyle personally which “The Future We Choose” book helps us to do, and to encourage others, including the council to do so on a wider scale.

Encouraging news:

1 MILLION SEAGRASS SEEDS ARE BEING PLANTED, TO HELP FIGHT THE CLIMATE CRISIS

From seagrass to tree planting, nature is a vital ally in the fight against the climate crisis.

Seagrass captures carbon up to 35 times faster than tropical rainforests and, even though it only covers 0.2% of the seafloor, it absorbs 10% of the ocean’s carbon each year, making it an incredible tool in the fight against climate change.

WWF, working together with Sky Ocean Rescue, have collected one million seagrass seeds this summer from various sites around the country by a team of volunteers. The seeds will be cultivated, before being planted in Dale Bay in Pembrokeshire this winter, where they will grow into a 20,000 m² seagrass meadow.



Local Action

Newcastle have produced a comprehensive and inspiring Action Plan to go zero carbon by 2030. Let us keep up the pressure on our local politicians to follow suit.



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The Future We Choose ISBN 978-1-83877-082-2

Continuing our summary of the ten actions required to bring about a good future for our planet, this month we look at **Defend the Truth**. The book quotes Jonathan Swift from 300 years ago *"Falsehood flies, and truth comes limping after it"*. A recent MIT study suggests that Twitter lies spread 6 times faster than truth, and never gain the same level of penetration. Science is undermined by lies and confusion, resulting in major mistakes of policy being made by populist politicians around the world.

We feel so powerless in the face of lies and falsehood being so prevalent. What can we do?

- 1) **Free your mind.** We are responsible for the way we think. So try to fight your own tendency to believe political leaders you agree with and to disbelieve those you don't. Fight to force your mind down avenues and ways of thought that you are unused to.
- 2) **Learn to distinguish between real science and pseudoscience.** Some glossy booklets have been produced contradicting climate change but investigation shows their authors are not qualified and the funding is highly dubious. Scientific papers need to be properly reviewed and assessed. So check where your information comes from, and who is funding it.
- 3) **Don't give up on climate deniers.** In this post-truth world an adherence to an ideology often overrules a desire for truth. Unconscious bias is in all of us. So the best chance for our world is to listen to those who disagree with us; persuasion has to come after a trusting relationship has been established.

Personal P.S. The need for this mind set has become even clearly to me in this COVID-19 world!