

## **Teesdale u3a Forum for November - Climate Solutions report by Kate Bailey**

This month we discussed talks we'd heard on the subject of climate solutions and nature recovery.

### **North Pennines AONB talk by Patrick Laurie (Tees-Swale Farming and Nature project)**

Patrick Laurie's family has farmed in Galloway with native black cattle for generations. He regrets that traditional landscapes have been altered by intensive dairy farms and commercial forestry plantations and is most concerned about the conservation of curlews and black grouse on upland farms. Curlews return to the same site to nest each year and can live for up to 30 years - if their nesting site is planted with trees they will still return there but eventually fail to breed. Laurie said we need to protect what we have in the North Pennines - once the curlews are gone they don't return.

### **Oxford Martin School talk by Prof Erle Ellis (Humanity's shared aspirations)**

Prof Ellis's is optimistic about the future, that together we can make change happen. Collaboration enables us to shift social behaviours and norms, adopt shared aspirations and establish a healthy relationship with nature. Urbanisation is an ongoing process shaping the planet. The myth of 'more people, more problems' is untrue as dense societies create more economic opportunities. Population in cities is already levelling off as young people have intentionally smaller families. The total amount of agricultural land is the same as 25 years ago, it's just used differently.

Humans know the natural world is fundamental to our health and wellbeing, industries are moving into a more sustainable future and energy systems are already changing - but public policies are lagging far behind. His advice on how to make a difference is to pressurise politicians to understand that voters want to live in a safe, healthy environment.

### **Oxford Martin School interview with Alok Sharma, leader of COP26 (Glasgow)**

Sharma talked about business communities that can see the economic opportunities created by Net Zero. Young people often look to work for companies that have made climate commitments. Science based targets are being adopted by stock markets. More than vague pledges, world leaders at COP28 need to demonstrate political will to meet emission reduction targets by 2030. Sharma said businesses are looking for certainty before making corporate commitments to invest for the long term. [COP28 will be held Nov 30th to Dec 12th in Dubai]

**This month's 'Good News'** is of the rediscovery in Brazil of a small, inconspicuous holly tree [*Ilex sapiiformis*] thought to be extinct for almost 200 years [[www.rewild.org/news/](http://www.rewild.org/news/)] and of the first baby beaver born in London for 400 years. The beaver reintroduction programme is part of a natural flood management project taking place across the UK [[www.bbc.co.uk/news/](http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/)]



Brazilian holly tree thought to be extinct - [www.rewild.org/news/](http://www.rewild.org/news/)