

Earth rising

When we went into space and went around the moon a photograph of the Earth was taken. It became one of the most iconic images of all time and was entitled 'Earth rise'.

Nowadays we face the possibility of Earth's demise, at least, the Earth that we know and love. I think of this every time I step out of my front door and embrace the weather be it sunshine, rain, snow or wind. I think of it every time I rejoice at the sound of bird song and appreciate that I live in a place where I get to hear it. I think of it every time I hear about another extinction somewhere thousands of miles away.

So much has been said, written, sung about, even drawn to wake us up to the problems of climate change and all its impacts but still so many view protecting our world, our nature as something that those politicians do, or even worse, as something that it is too late to do anything about. How many times have you heard someone say, or perhaps thought to yourself, 'If it's that bad then nothing I can do will change it.'

But you can. You, me and every other individual. In fact, every group of people, every community, every organisation. We are all part of the ecology of James Lovelock's Gaia. We could be seen as parasites on her skin the way we are now, but we should aim to be symbiotic with her, working to each other's mutual benefit, nurturing, protecting, sharing and enjoying.

We call her Mother Nature; join me in reflecting on how you regard your own mother. You probably at the very least respect her. She has supported you and brought you up with love and all the best hopes and dreams for you. Do you repay her by leaving her festering in your mess, unloved, unwanted? Then why do that to Mother Nature?

In recent years I have woken up to the issues of how we are affecting our world and I know that I am not alone. As each day passes the need to change becomes more pressing. Ask yourself, how much have you changed? However much your answer amounts to you can probably find at least one more thing. I've replaced my boiler, turned down my thermostat, downsized my car, cut down my mileage, recycled more, volunteered for wildlife, bought less cheap goods in favour of quality so less replacements will be needed, the list goes on. But I know that I can do more and I certainly aim to try harder.

How about it? If we all push harder governments will listen more. I for one believe in managing upwards. If it works in offices, I'm sure it works in all structures including political and commercial organisations. Legislation only goes so far.

I've come to realise that if we don't want a real life scientist to say 'It's life, Captain, but not as we know it!' about Planet Earth, we need to wake up just a little earlier. Early enough to see a new Earth rising.