TWELVE

(IT'S ABOUT TIME)

…2015

Twelve hours from noon, winding to midnight
when owls and foxes half hiding free reign
then clocks tick tock back to dark dissolved light
as our days fill with plans and people again.
Twelve months for Earth's yearly revolution
from gloomy north January, short day cold
through seasons' grown gifts, granting absolution
as mistakes and omissions humanly unfold.
Twelve easing steps of the addicts' slow healing
from accepting our weakness over legal drugs
as world leaders shake hands in Paris, free-wheeling
twelve years to de-carbonise, regenerate love…

…2016

They buy carbon credits, their economies thrive,
consumer choice luxuries they can afford
ignore other's hard non constituency lives
in April leaders sign the binding Paris Accord.
In May half of Britain votes neighbours to Leave
to unchartered waters – go it alone
defy those with facts - vested interests deceive
and expatriots question where we call home.
The rich get still richer in the rat race run,
the poor and weak scratch in justice markets,
leaders meet in Marakech, nothing's been done
to reduce emissions, just pledges and targets…

…2017

Horror stories fracture the newsfeed airwaves
coral bleached wasteland in the Barrier Reef
American, Arctic, Asian hottest heatwaves
wildfires in Canada, all-consuming grief.
Counter shoots sprout of regenerative thinking
single farmers learning how to green their land,
caring for soil, multi crops and carbon sinking
offers some protection from the worst to withstand.
In northern summer more seasonal hurricanes
twist through the Americas, vast wildfires rage
in European resorts and Mexico Gulf strains
and leaders take selfies on the world stage…

…2018

Record breaking levels this year envelop
seven billion-dollar droughts and crop failure news
in China, Argentina, America and Europe,
tragic African, Indian and Australian views.
A glimpse of hope breaks in May of a new possible
way as citizens call ‘Time’ on business as usual -
a band of rebels hold governments responsible
with carnivals and slogans and disobedient refusal.
Children on school strike for uncertain futures
sit, then march and crowd to fill city squares,
a tide of youth risk, their education ruptures,
lead from behind with a girl’s knowing stares…

…2019

Protests get louder in liberal democracies

Black Lives, MeToo, Abused and Queer Pride,

the overlooked break silence with shaming stories

ten years after the global banking crisis slide.

The Secretary-General of the United Nations

tells leaders at a Summit to no longer ignore

halving greenhouse gas in ten years obligations

and Russia finally ratifies the Paris Accord.

This is the second hottest year and the end

of the hottest decade on record, COP twenty five

is held in Madrid, companies manage to extend

the consumerism game, play Corruption Live…

…2020

Plans are disrupted by a plague, though forecast

a deadly virus makes the human race pause.

No one's exempt from lockdowns, now must

isolate, quarantine, for our common cause.

Borders are closed and travel is cancelled,

the lucky or wealthy work from home or retire.

Low waged key workers to duty are manacled

risk catching Covid or furloughed or fired.

Earth revolts – a multi billion dollar cost

for wildfires, hurricanes, thirty named storms

and highest CO2 levels while America gets lost

as Captain Destructive rewrites social norms…

…2021

A third state replaces oil, gas and coal,
generates clean energy with a back up store
countries follow suit, start to rapidly roll
out circular policy, enforced by the law.
Benefits mount as even sceptics are swayed
and businesses transfer their loans to new
banks that care for staff and customers, trade
with ethics that profits all, not just the few.
Countries domino, revise their dirty
exploiting, explosive, extracting fossil fuels
consult local indigenous wisdom more worthy,
paid by polluters for State subsidy renewals…

…2022

Ancient forests are kept as campaigners plead
and peatlands protected - a posterity special,
coastal waters planted to regrow seaweed
all to catch carbon and heat starts to level.
Managing waste is the most urgent lesson
after fossil fuel extraction is globally outlawed.
Selling rubbish abroad is rightly questioned
waste must be owned and made use of or stored.
Upcycling, repairing, repurposing takes off
as dusted down memories from corners upstairs
are taken to strangers to fix, build or buff
their skills working magic for stories now shared…

…2023

Bank agreements and Business Plans now note
full life of products with transparent rules,
compulsory Eco experts cast deciding vote.
Universal Basic Income is applied round the world.
Career changers are rewarded to swerve
to caring, reviving professions instead
of arms trade or public contracts that serve
tax avoiding company shareholders and Heads.
Carbon capture plants are built for each city
in shopping sheds, and tech work hubs built,
pedestrianised streets are safer and pretty,
cycle paths and transport become the default…

…2024

Farmers leave flower belts, pollinators survive,
start a growing trend in rural locations,
sell wide varieties of produce and thrive
enriching the soil and cooperation.
International agents sign strict Ocean treaties
dumped tackle breaking enforceable laws
cameras relay mass trawling on open seas
and safe habitats for all life quickly restores.
Greenhouse systems with integral water
spring up in towns, bad insecticides are banned,
intensive farming makes working days shorter
rewilding established to rebalance the land…

…2025

Hand skills are taught to young generations
to thatch, stone wall, make machines and brew beer
reviving work pride for friends and relations
builds bridges as lost knowledge proves too dear.
Global coffee and soap brands pay day release,
poor and homeless to sort single use waste,
pay for each tonne collected pollution fees,
blame for felling forests now correctly placed.
A soft drink company who sells to the poor,
spends its advertising budget on locals with tee
shirts to wash rubbish picked from shore,
builds waste transformers for their trading fee…

…2026

Citizens' Assemblies sit so the people can state
priorities, like a Jury discussing the facts
their recommendations form a binding mandate
restoring trust as paid lobbying cracks.
The storms keep raging and the seas are still rising
it's heating, but we learn to care for each other
by Thinking Global, Acting Local, and realising
all species have their place on this planet of a mother.
We build flood defences and National Parks
grow food sustainably, protect insects and plants,
animal numbers spring back to 1900 marks
and children dream of a bright future chance…