



# Friends of the Earth Pembrokehire Cyfeillion y ddaear Sir Benfro

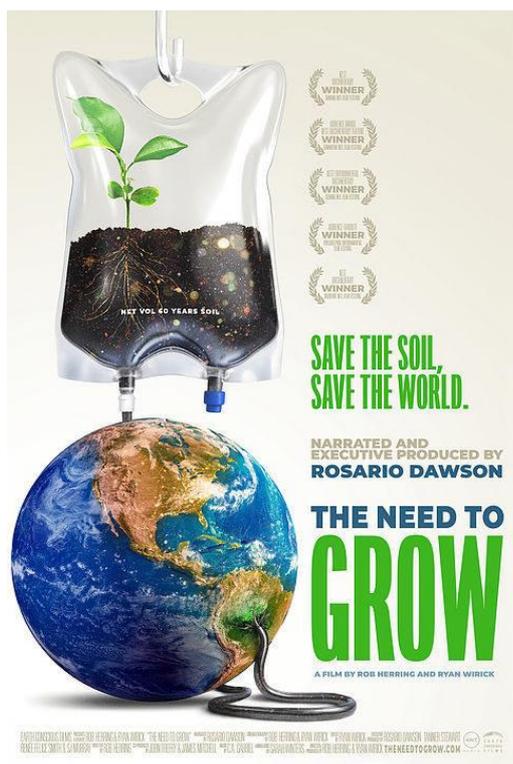
## Newsletter December 2019

### Pembrokehire Friends of the Earth AGM

Thursday 23 January, 6.45 pm

Seminar Room, Bloomfield, Narberth

Followed at 7.30 pm by a showing of  
'The Need to Grow' - an intimate look into the  
hearts of activists and innovators in the food  
movement



Please consider joining our core group, we do need help. We are especially looking for someone to help with the website and facebook page, but all other skills are also welcome!

### Two environmental hustings organised with XR – Goodwick and Bancyfelin

On 2 December we held a hustings in Goodwick jointly with XR Fishguard, for the Pembrokehire Preseli constituency. Over 100 people attended, and the three candidates were thoroughly interrogated as to their responses to the ecological and climate crisis we are facing. Cris Tomos (Plaid Cymru), Phillipa Thompson (Labour), and Thomas Hughes (Lib Dem), gave their best. Stephen Crabb (Conservative), did not take part.

Questions ranged from how to achieve zero carbon by 2030, what role Wales can play, how to learn from the world, how to ensure nature protection, how to produce food, how to counter species extinction. The emphasis was very much on working together, involving everybody in these challenges. The three candidates were strong, and agreed in their aim to gain this seat from the Tories. All three candidates took the FoE climate change pledge, pledging to make climate change the deal breaker on all their votes in parliament.



Lynda Duffil chairing the hustings in Goodwick



The three candidates taking the FoE climate pledge

The Bancyfelin hustings on the 6 December, again organised with XR, saw an equally good turnout and had all four candidates this time. Marc Tierney (Labour), Alistair Cameron (Lib Dem), Rhys Thomas (Plaid Cymru) and Simon Hart (Conservative) took part. The discussion was more pointed and well

hosted by Andy Middleton. While all candidates agreed on the necessity to act on climate change and biodiversity loss across a range of areas, the record of environmental action of the parties was more controversial. Simon Hart (Conservative) was the only candidate of the four who did not want to take the FoE climate change pledge.



## Our MPs Contrasting Concern on Climate Change

Carmarthen East and Dinefwr MP, Jonathan Edwards, is far more committed to tackling climate change than Simon Hart MP, his counterpart in Carmarthen West and South Pembrokeshire, according to an analysis of the voting record of MPs in the House of Commons [1].

The analysis, undertaken by investigative journalists at DESMOG UK and the Guardian newspaper, concluded that Jonathan Edwards scored 100% by backing action on climate change at every opportunity while Simon Hart scored just 12%.

The Guardian's climate ranking shows readers their MP's record on 16 indicative climate votes between 2008 and 2018. Each MP has been assigned a score between 0% and 100% based on their voting record on issues such as Heathrow airport expansion,

onshore wind power, vehicle tax in relation to CO2 emissions

Simon Hart MP voted positively twice, despite being present in the House of Commons for 13 votes, while Jonathan Edwards voted positively on each of the ten occasions that he was present.

Neighbouring Llanelli MP, Nia Griffith, achieved a score of 85% while Ceredigion MP, on the other hand Stephen Crabb was present for **15** votes and voted positively in **4** and scored **27%**. (Ben Lake, could not be assigned a score as he has not been an MP for long enough).

[1] [https://www.theguardian.com/environment/ng-interactive/2019/oct/11/guardian-climate-score-how-did-your-mp-do?CMP=Share\\_AndroidApp\\_Email](https://www.theguardian.com/environment/ng-interactive/2019/oct/11/guardian-climate-score-how-did-your-mp-do?CMP=Share_AndroidApp_Email)

[2] <https://www.theguardian.com/environment/2019/oct/30/climate-crisis-affects-how-majority-will-vote-in-uk-election-poll>

What do you think about the Llandewi Velfrey and Redstone Cross bypasses, let us know?

We are proposing having an on-line petition opposing these projects. The main points being:

**The very high costs:** £45million for the Llandewi Velfrey to Penblwin and £20million for the Penblwin to Redstone Cross.

**The climate emergency:** instead of spending this money to extend road infrastructure and focusing on through-traffic this should be spent to enhance local transport and reducing the CO2 emissions.

**The focus should be:** road safety, enhancing active travel (walking and cycling) and public transport.

<https://gov.wales/a40-llandewi-velfrey-penblewin-overview>

<https://gov.wales/a40-penblewin-redstone-cross-improvements-overview>

**We would like to know your thoughts and whether you would be in support of a petition. Our contact details are on the back page of the newsletter.**

The Inspector will hold a Pre-Inquiry Meeting on Wednesday 15 January 2020 at the Llandewi Velfrey Village Hall, Glan Preseli, Llandewi Velfrey, Pembrokeshire SA67 7PG, starting promptly at 10.00am. The purpose of this meeting is not to

hear any evidence but to help the Inspector and all interested parties to prepare for the Inquiry on 10 March 2020. (<https://gov.wales/understanding-public-inquiries-road-proposals>).

### Community Wind Turbine in Llanfyrnach - more than a decade in the making!



After a long and bumpy journey, a 700kW wind turbine on Trefawr Farm in Llanfyrnach has been installed. Cwm Arian Renewable Energy (CARE) were very relieved to see the community wind turbine installed in October after over a decade of dedication to the project.

The project received planning permission from the Welsh Government in 2016 for the 61 meter high wind turbine, which is set to generate over 2,000 MWh every year - that's enough electricity to power around 500 homes each year. Although the electricity grid technology doesn't allow the wind turbine to power local homes directly, all the profits gained from selling the electricity will be paid into a community fund, which will be distributed to local community projects, businesses and individuals for activities which benefit local people and the environment.

The turbine is set to start generating electricity in mid November, and a community share offer will be open in early 2020. CARE is benefiting from the chairman Cris Tomos' experience of setting up successful community share offers that have helped people take ownership of their assets across the county - "We're looking forward to inviting local people to become members of Cwm Arian and invest in the renewable energy scheme. Even a small investment will earn them a better interest rate on their savings than if they keep their money in the bank, and will also help Cwm Arian pay back the bank loan sooner so the community fund will grow quicker - it's a win-win situation for everyone!".

### The Local Energy Action Force (LEAF)

This is an innovative pilot project to help communities generate and trade sustainable energy. They will be

working with five communities across Pembrokeshire over the next two years, supporting them to develop community energy projects. The Local Energy Action Force has recently appointed four Project Officers who will deliver a programme of events to help raise awareness and develop skills in community energy development. LEAF will develop five projects in Pembrokeshire, working with volunteers, landowners, business owners and householders, co-ordinating and enabling access to support, skills, knowledge and experience and sharing what they learn.

If you are living in any of the five communities: St Davids, Tiers Cross, Milford Haven, Hubberston and Hakin, Tavernspite and Llanteg, please get in touch via their website - they'd love to hear from you!

<http://www.communityenergypembrokeshire.org/leaf---local-energy-action-force.html>

### Sea grass at Dale and carbon sequestration

Pembrokeshire Coastal Forum and the Pembrokeshire Marine Special Area of Conservation are in the early stages of a project working with Sky Ocean Rescue, WWF and Swansea University to restore seagrass meadows in Wales. Pembrokeshire Coastal Forum and the Pembrokeshire Marine Special Area of Conservation Officer's roles are to ensure that local users and the community are properly involved, so that those who enjoy or work in the sea around Dale have an opportunity to share their views and help decide on the location for this exciting new project.

The project plans to restore seagrass in a small experimental two hectare area (approximately two rugby pitches) in collaboration with local people in Dale. They want to ensure that those who enjoy or work in the sea around Dale have an opportunity to share their views about this exciting new project.

As much as 92% of the UK's seagrass has been lost, restoring it is vital for ocean health. Seagrass has huge benefits. It can protect coasts, improve water filtration and plays the following important roles:

**Fisheries Support** – 20% of the world's biggest fisheries are supported by seagrass meadows as fish nurseries. **Biodiversity Support** – 50 species of fish live in or visit UK seagrass, supporting 30 times more animals than nearby habitat. **Fight Climate Change** – Seagrasses store carbon 30 times faster than forests. Restoring it traps carbon dioxide.

<https://www.pembrokeshirecoastalforum.org.uk/seagrassoceanrescue/>

## Marine Energy Wales

Marine Energy Wales brings together technology developers, the supply chain, academia and the public sector to establish Wales as a global leader in sustainable marine energy generation, making a significant contribution to a low carbon economy.

Part of this project is the Pembrokeshire Demonstration Zone located 13 km off the South Pembrokeshire coast. Third Party Management for the site is a collaborative approach being led by [Wave Hub](#) with partners including Marine Energy Wales and [Pembroke Port](#). The zone has the potential to support the demonstration of wave arrays with a generating capacity of up to 30MW for each project.

Much more information can be found on their website [www.marineenergywales.co.uk](http://www.marineenergywales.co.uk)

## The Climate Emergency Post Election

Back in September DeSmog and the Independent revealed hundreds of climate change deniers including academics, politicians and lobbyists were launching a campaign to stop commitments to net zero carbon emissions being enshrined in law. They are part of a network pushing for environmental deregulation after Brexit.

A letter titled “There is no climate emergency” – which has been signed by 400 people who deem climate change to be a myth – to be sent to leaders of European Union (EU) and United Nations (UN) institutions in the weeks ahead of key environment talks.

The climate deniers are connected to a transatlantic network of think tanks pushing for environmental deregulation after Brexit, which also have a history of climate science denial. The letter, obtained by investigative non-profit news organisation DeSmog, shows the group has links with members of Boris Johnson’s Cabinet.

The UK’s principal climate science denial group, the Global Warming Policy Foundation (GWPF), founded by former Chancellor Nigel Lawson in the run-up to the 2009 Copenhagen climate summit, is also well-represented in the campaign. (1)

As DeSmog revealed in the weeks leading up to the election, the Tories have received millions from funders of climate science denial with vested interests in fossil fuels. They’ve also received millions from the aviation industry. One of the Tory’s major donors also

runs a hedge fund that holds significant investments in a major weapons manufacturer and a mining giant.

Lakshmi Mittal has so far given £150,000 to the Tories. Mittal, is the CEO and founder of ArcelorMittal, the world’s biggest steel company. He is the 11th richest person in the world, according to this year’s Sunday Times Rich List. The Conservatives have received millions from funders of climate science denial, with Boris Johnson receiving more cash from these sources than any other MP.

Labour, SNP and the Greens did not received any large donations from companies or investment firms during the election campaign, with Labour heavily reliant on backing from trade unions.(2)

- (1) <https://www.desmog.co.uk/2019/09/06/climate-science-deniers-planning-coordinated-european-misinformation-campaign-leaked-documents-reveal>
- (2) <https://www.desmog.co.uk/2019/12/06/revealed-brexit-party-and-conservatives-have-received-8m-aviation-industry>

## More than 50 Conservative Candidates Fail to Show at Climate Hustings

Conservative Party candidates across the UK appear to have followed their party leader by failing to participate in public debates on the climate crisis. Local climate hustings took place during the previous general election but there were far more this year. Many being hosted by local chapters of Extinction Rebellion or coalitions of green groups. In Bristol, six climate hustings were held to cover each of the city’s electoral areas. Extinction Rebellion Bristol said Conservative candidates in all the constituencies refused to attend – including science minister Chris Skidmore. (1)\_ <https://www.desmog.co.uk/general-election-2019>

### **Pembrokeshire FOE contact details:**

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**Website** [www.foepembrokeshire.co.uk](http://www.foepembrokeshire.co.uk)

**Facebook** Pembrokeshire Friends of the Earth

**Email** [info@foepembrokeshire.org.uk](mailto:info@foepembrokeshire.org.uk)

**Telephone** 07768 228584

*(Leave a message and I will get back to you)*