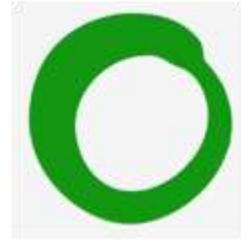


Pembrokeshire Friends of the Earth

Cyfeillion y Ddaear Sir Benfro

Newsletter March 2010



Food Chain Campaign

Factory farming of meat and dairy is helping push the planet to the brink of runaway climate change as forests are being cleared to grow soya for animal feed.

Farmers need support to move away from imported feeds to home grown diets.

Many of you will have sent postcards to your MP to support a new law to measure and reduce the environmental impact of the UK's meat and dairy consumption. The best opportunity to take a step towards that goal lies with the private members ballot that will follow soon after the general election.

Our campaign has helped an issue that almost no MPs knew about to become a topic that almost everyone in Westminster is aware of.

Please sign and send the enclosed post card to your MP.

Local farmers Gerald Miles and Tom Latter are working on a Community Support Agriculture (CSA) scheme in the St David's area which offers an innovative business approach where a food or farm enterprise has members who own 'shares' in the harvest and therefore also share in the risk. CSA enterprises could consist of a community making an agreement in advance to purchase a particular crop from a producer, the community members making regular input of labour.

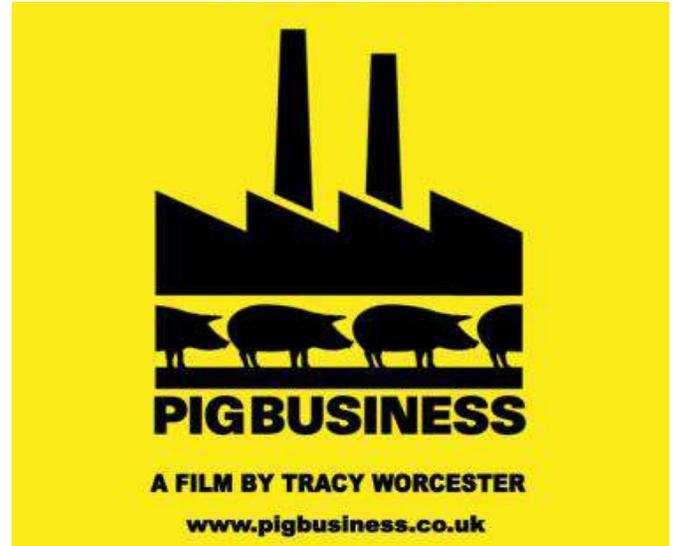
New Heat and Power Plant Unveiled

A new heat and power plant (CHP) which will supply the energy needs of one of Milford Haven's terminals was unveiled at the beginning of February 2010. It will supply up to 49MW of electricity and 73MW heat to the Drago LNG terminal as other companies on the site at Waterston. We have been campaigning for CHP for many years.

Pembrokeshire County Council Local

Development Plan

The council is now proposing that the Deposit plan will be considered by the authority's Cabinet in March and April 2010, and subsequently by Full Council in May. Subject to agreement at these stages, the Deposit Local Development Plan will then be published for public consultation purposes during the summer. Statutory consultation period at this stage is only 6 weeks.



The Queens Hall,

Narberth 7.30pm

Sunday 11th April

Admission £3 (Free for Film on Sunday members)

Pig Business is the result of a four year investigation into the devastating impacts intensive farming is having on the environment, human health, rural livelihoods and animal welfare, exposing the controversial practices of the biggest multinational corporations in the meat industry.

Refreshments available

***Our next monthly meeting is on Tuesday 27th
April, 7.30pm at SPAN Arts Town Moor Narberth***

The availability of the Deposit Local Development Plan should be widely publicised and all consultees should be kept informed. If your contact details have changed, please notify the team know using our contact details below:

Local Development Plan Team

Tel: 01437 764551

Pembrokeshire County Council

Turret 3A, County Hall, Haverfordwest, SA61 1TP

E-mail: ldp@pembrokeshire.gov.uk

Make sure you have your say!

Great News for Cwm Arian Renewable Energy Project – Hermon, Glogue and Llanfyrnach.

The project known as Cwm Arian Renewable Energy (CARE) has been successful in clinching one of 22 grant awards from across Britain. In total the grant known as Low Carbon Communities Challenge was offering £10,000,000 to be split between communities with exciting ideas for lowering carbon footprints and stimulating social enterprises from revenues generated from community renewables. The scheme is administered by the UK governments Department for the Environment and Climate Change – see details on www.decc.gov.uk

Within the area of Hermon, Glogue and Llanfyrnach there is now an opportunity to distribute energy monitoring display units for free to each household (normally £25)

Then to help householders, farmers and business people to look at opportunities of lowering carbon emissions. There will be opportunities and help for farmers and business people to look at installing renewable energy equipment such as hydro turbines, solar systems or wind energy.

The main idea is to have 2 wind turbines that would be owned by the community and would give them an annual profit of £200,000 from energy sold to the national grid. The money would stay in the community be used to support community groups and also start looking at social enterprise businesses that would be owned by the community. To create jobs and opportunities for local people.

One future project idea would be to purchase land and to put up community owned business units for local young people to pilot new businesses and also the community to start up social enterprises & cooperatives owned by the community. Also to purchase land for a Community Land Trust to build affordable houses that the community would own.

There will shortly be a public meeting announcement to encourage individuals to get involved in this exciting project. The initial plan is to focus on the catchment area of Hermon, Glogue and Llanfyrnach but during the next few years there is an intention to extend the development to neighbouring communities.

Friends of the Earth threatens legal challenge to government's nuclear plans

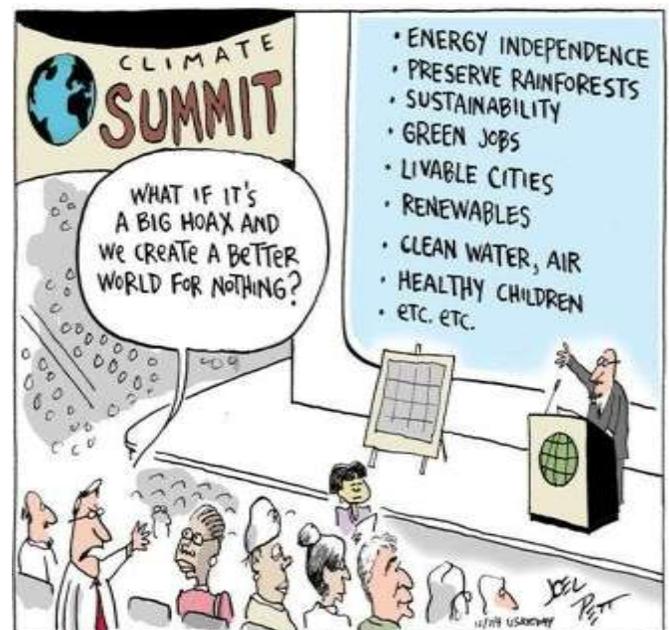
FoE has threatened to launch a legal challenge against the government over its "fundamentally flawed" plans to approve hundreds of new nuclear reactors, power plants, wind farms, electricity pylons and pipelines.

The group has written to energy secretary Ed Miliband warning him that government planning statements issued in November breach environmental regulations and had not followed proper consultation. Friends of the Earth said it was also supported by conservation groups, the WWF and RSPB.

The energy industry and ministers have been braced for a legal challenge for months, particularly over plans to build as many as 10 new nuclear reactors.

Friends of the Earth said it believed the statements, which new planning commission the IPC will use to block or approve applications, would result in Britain "locking-in" to a high-carbon energy infrastructure. It said the IPC should have to directly take into account the carbon emissions resulting from individual applications.

Friends of the Earth's executive director, Andy Atkins, said: "The government's draft national planning statements on energy are fundamentally flawed. The consultation was insufficient, the alternatives were inadequately explored, and the policies are poorly justified. And because they fail to assess the carbon impact that the proposed development will have they threaten to undermine UK carbon budgets."



Tip of the Day

Subscribe to receive Friends of the Earth's free **Tip of the day** by email - <http://www.foe.co.uk/living/tips/>.

Each tip will help you **green your lifestyle** just a little bit more. Below are just a few examples:-.

As the season changes, it's time to get swishing! The art of "swishing" involves getting your friends together to swap gorgeous clothes and party at the same time. Save money, save resources, improve your wardrobe, have fun; find out more at:- <http://www.swishing.org/>

Dip a damp polishing cloth into ash leftover from woodburners and fires to bring to bring a natural gleam to glass, silverware and brass.

Wash your car with a bucket of soapy water rather than hosepipe. Running a hose for just 30 minutes uses more water than an average family consumes in a whole day.

PROTECTING WELSH SEAS

Pembrokeshire FOE sent a letter welcoming the Welsh Assembly Government's consultation 'Protecting Welsh Seas: a strategy for Marine Protected Areas'.

The principle of establishing marine conservation zones (MCZ) is very important; experience here in Pembrokeshire, so beautifully illustrated to us by Phil Newman of Skomer Marine Nature Reserve at our AGM, and throughout the world has shown the great value of protected areas to the biodiversity of the marine environment. An environment which suffers from being "out of sight, out of mind", and which, all too often, is seen purely as a resource for man to exploit. At a time of unprecedented threats from pollution, dredging, shipping, oil and gas drilling, and most importantly exploitation by over fishing this has never been more urgent.

The most sensitive areas such as the Skomer Marine Reserve should become no take zones set within wider areas where fishing is controlled and harmful activities such as the dumping of dredging spoil and scallop dredging is prevented.

However we are also concerned that the study of the marine reserve at Skomer should continue into the future. This work and the experience the team has gained over the last 20 years has contributed enormously to this debate; and with the background of the changes likely to occur due to climate change, longitudinal and prospective research of this kind is invaluable. This experience has shown is there is no substitute for people on the spot to encourage and where necessary enforce protection and to engage with the users of the sea.

We understand that it is not the intention of the draft document to weaken the protection around Skomer, but without adequate leadership and resources this may be an unintended consequence. In the final document we would like to see one body with overall responsibility and where other bodies such as local authorities are involved their role and responsibilities should be clearly defined. We are concerned that the SAC-approach which places "a duty on all public authorities ... to undertake their functions in a way that will further ... the achievement of site conservation objectives" is not appropriate. There is a considerable danger that the cracks between the different bodies and their areas of responsibility will be exploited by those who are pursuing profit with no regard for conservation.

The success of Skomer has been due in large part to the clear leadership of CCW and their team. Clearly this model cannot be resourced across all the MCZ but we urged that the final document looks at this model for selected areas (ie High Priority MCZ's) and clarifies the responsibility and mechanisms for enforcement in the wider areas.

Trip to Skomer Island

Saturday 15th May

Boat leaving Martins Haven at 10am

If you would like to share a lift

Phone Eleanor 01437 532575

Or email: silhouette@cooptel.net

Marinet , FOE Marine Network -representative needed

With the passage of the Marine and Coastal Access Act into law, the government is now in the process of deciding where marine conservation zones should be established in order to protect our seas.

In the case of Wales, the identification of marine conservation zones (MCZs) in Welsh territorial waters (out to 12 nautical miles) is a devolved matter for the Welsh Assembly, and a process for the identification of Welsh MCZs is currently being set up.

MARINET would like to take part in this process to ensure that the MCZs are identified on a sound basis, and that various economic interests do not dominate and distort the process. It is most important that a comprehensive and ecologically coherent network of MCZs is established because, without this, there is little chance that our seas will be restored to health.

MARINET is therefore looking for someone from within the Welsh FOE Local Groups to represent us in the Welsh Assembly process of identifying these MCZs. The absence of prior experience is no a difficulty, as we will give you training in the issues should you require this. We will also pay your out of pocket expenses involved in this project.

Therefore, if you are interested, please get in touch.

S. D. Eades

Tel. 01249 653972

Email. stephen.marinet@btinternet.com

New Regulations to limit Scallop Dredging

Rural Affairs Minister Elin Jones has announced new regulations to restrict scallop fishing off the Welsh Coast which came into force on St Davids Day.

"The new regulations will protect scallop stocks and safeguard important marine species and habitats through a range of technical and spatial restrictions"

This will help maintain a viable and sustainable scallop industry for fishermen operating in Welsh waters.



Copenhagen Vigil

On 12th December a group of us held a candlelit vigil in Newport, with one in Narberth on the 13th. This was part of a worldwide action, orchestrated by AVAAZ, an online campaign group. It was the final few days of the climate talks in Copenhagen, and the idea was to let the world leaders know that all eyes were still on them. About twenty people gathered and as lanterns and candles glowed in the dark we sang – in appropriately festive mode, to the tune of Good King Wenceslas,

*Copenhagen hear our song, unplug your ears and listen,
Climate chaos won't be long, ocean levels risen.
Join us now in our demand – fair and lasting measures.
Climate Justice for the world,
Save our planets treasures.*

*Leaders of the world unite, don't forget you need us.
No time left to fuss or fight, time that you should heed us.
Polar Bears on melting ice, rivers overflowing,
Not long left, so don't think twice,
Winds of change are blowing.*

The Pembrokeshire Wave

On a cold, dark December morning a small group of us huddled outside Ysgol y Preseli waiting for the promised coach to arrive to take us on our journey to London. We were going to take part in 'The Wave', a demonstration planned to draw the attention of our politicians, and the world in general to the increasingly urgent threat of Climate Change.

As we arrived in London for the rally, people pulled blue items of clothing out of their bags. Mer-kings and mermaids appeared as if by magic, streamers of blue and green, whales and sea creatures descended from hundreds of coaches and London was transformed into an oceanic festival. The Welsh dragon had changed into a wonderful blue sea monster, carried through the streets Chinese style. The weather was dry, there was drumming and chanting and singing; there were children and old people and a carnival atmosphere as we marched through the streets.

The final rally was a huge encirclement of the Houses of Parliament, thousands of people stretching in a mass of blue across the bridges, along the Embankment and out of sight. At three o'clock the 'wave' erupted, shouting and waving. We hoped that someone in the Houses might notice!

We would like to say thank you to Dan Blackburn for organising the transport, and to Oxfam and the Co-op for subsidising the cost. It was a day that helped us remember that there is strength in collective action – it's nice to have friends!



SPAN BIG PLANT SALE
Saturday 1st May
Please save some seedlings/plants for our stall

Pembrokeshire FoE Contact Info

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Narberth SA67 7AG

Website: www.foepembrokeshire.co.uk

Telephone: 07768228584