

# Pembrokeshire Friends of the Earth

## Cyfeillion y Ddaear Sir Benfro

Newsletter November 2010



### Meeting with Stephen Crabb MP



Ellie Clegg, Rebecca Cadbury and Gordon James met Preseli Pembrokeshire MP, Stephen Crabb, on 5<sup>th</sup> November to present him with the Friends of the Earth Cymru briefing paper, 'Climate Science: Countering the Myths'. This was part of the Stop Climate Chaos Big Climate Connection lobbying of MPs around the UK.

The group discussed the need for a strong Act of Parliament, promised for next year, to improve energy efficiency in thousands of homes; financial support for developing countries to meet the challenge of climate change; and tougher pollution controls at power stations.

They also had time to discuss financial support for ports, like Pembroke Dock, to benefit economically from the construction of the proposed large Atlantic Array windfarm in the Bristol Chanel, Pembroke power station and the scrapping of funding for salvage tugs.

### Pembroke Power Station

The Welsh Environment Minister, Jane Davidson, turned down our request to call-in the environmental permit application for the power station being built at Pembroke. Bizarrely, the company is being allowed to construct the power station before it is given a permit to operate. As this decision will be closely scrutinised by the European Commission, following the FoE Cymru complaint, we hope the Environment Agency will have the good sense to insist on the power station using technologies that will not cause further harm to Pembrokeshire's marine environment.

### Pembrokeshire Friends of the Earth AGM



*Photo by Mick Brown*

Bloomfield Centre, Narberth on Tuesday 30<sup>th</sup> November at 6.30pm followed by refreshments.  
**Mick Brown will give an illustrated talk on the Inuit Indians and the Wildlife of Canada and Greenland at 7.30pm.**

## Funding for Salvage Tugs Scrapped

A casualty of the government's spending cuts has been the funding for four large salvage tugs stationed around the UK. These were put in place following the Sea Empress disaster at the entrance to Milford Haven in 1996, with one at Falmouth to cover the south west Approaches. Although larger tugs are now stationed at Milford Haven to cater for LNG tankers, these are not so powerful nor so capable of operating at out at sea. This leaves Pembrokeshire's magnificent marine environment and seamen's lives at unnecessary risk. We are lobbying MP Stephen Crabb to get the government to reverse its decision.



## MPs Urged to Secure Port Funding for Pembrokeshire

The government announced, in its recent Comprehensive Spending Review, that £200 million would be allocated to support low-carbon technologies, including port upgrades to support offshore wind farms. Pembrokeshire Friends of the Earth has written to both local MPs calling on them to use their influence to ensure that port facilities on the Milford Haven waterway will benefit from this funding should the proposal for a large wind farm, the Atlantic Array, off the South Wales coast go ahead.

The chancellor also announced that £1bn will be provided for carbon capture and storage demonstration plants. The Green Investment Bank is to go ahead with £1bn of funding. Friends of the Earth are campaigning to ensure that this is adequately funded. Accountancy firm Ernst and Young concluded the bank would require £4-6 billion over the 4 year period, and that it should be set up now not in 2013 as the chancellor implied.

The government did not cut payments for Feed In Tariffs, as had been expected, following the threat of legal action from Friends of the Earth.

## New Website for Marine Energy



Marine Energy Pembrokeshire has been set up to provide information and promote Pembrokeshire as a Hub for Marine Renewables.



The Wave Dragon

### Why Pembrokeshire?

In addition to the excellent marine energy resource that Pembrokeshire has to offer, there are a number of other factors that set the area apart from other UK sites and provide an attractive package for potential investors. These include

- excellent grid connection possibilities
- world class research
- world class port facilities
- transferable skills
- collaborative working
- unrivalled data collection

Marine energy in Pembrokeshire could increase and diversify economic activities, raise skill levels, sustain and strengthen local communities and most importantly contribute to the single greatest challenge of our time – **Climate Change**

**NATIONAL CLIMATE MARCH 4<sup>th</sup> December**  
**Hyde Park, London 12noon**

*"We cannot wait for great visions from great people for they are in short supply. It is up to us to light our own small fires in the darkness".*

[Charles Handy](#)



**Our stall at the Narberth Food Festival at which 240 postcards to MPs were signed**

## The Sustainable Livestock Bill

Rob Ffello MP introduced the Sustainable Livestock Bill in June of this year after coming second in the ballot of private members bills. Prior to its introduction he said:

"I was shocked to find out just how much a Sunday roast can cost our planet under the factory farming system. I am determined to put this right by working with Friends of the Earth and other MPs across the House to lead the drive for planet-friendly farming that doesn't destroy wildlife, rainforests and our climate."

This Bill is about supporting UK sustainable agriculture and rainforest-free livestock farming. The early day motion has been signed by 151 MP's, but the Bill now needs the support of 100 MP's at its second reading on Friday 12<sup>th</sup> November to proceed any further.

Like most FoE groups, Pembrokeshire has been campaigning in support of the Bill. At the Really Wild Food Festival in St David's, 80 cards to local MP's urging them to support the Bill were signed and a further 240 at the Narberth Food Festival. Many thanks to all the members who helped man the stalls at both events. It was fantastic to see the support we received, everyone was very impressed by the numbers of cards signed, let's hope the MP's were too.

Friends of the Earth is very concerned about the impact of some sectors of the livestock and dairy industry on our global environment. This is resulting in habitat loss, destruction of the rain forests and the widespread use of chemicals and harmful pesticides in the countries growing soy for animal

feed. The feed is then transported around the world further impacting on global warming.

We are also very concerned about the welfare and human rights of local communities in Latin America, where the majority of the GM soy is grown, as well as the impact on more sustainable farming in the UK which is struggling to compete. Soy cultivation is driving small farmers from their lands, water supplies are frequently contaminated and this occurs against a background of intimidation and loss of human rights. The trade is controlled by a handful of powerful conglomerates, such as Cargill and Monsanto against whom indigenous populations can't fight. All this is done to provide animal products for the developed world which is currently facing an unprecedented obesity crisis.

### STOP PRESS

#### Local MP Opposed Sustainable Livestock Bill

Simon Hart MP (Carmarthen West and South Pembrokeshire) spoke against Friends of the Earth Sustainable Livestock Bill at its 2<sup>nd</sup> reading at the House of Commons on Friday 11<sup>th</sup> November. The Bill failed to get support from the required 100 MPs to proceed. The campaign for more sustainable farming continues now in other ways.

*"Never doubt that a small, group of thoughtful, committed citizens can change the world. Indeed, it is the only thing that ever has."*

- Margaret Mead

**A small group of us have been working voluntarily: organising campaigns, information stalls, films and producing a newsletter for Pembrokeshire FoE for some years.**

**We would like invite people to share their ideas and to get involved, whether it's helping at a stall, designing a poster or writing a letter. We have a wealth of knowledge and support from our head offices in Cardiff and London. We are backed up by research and clear briefings for any campaign we are involved in.**

***Please get in touch via our website or phone Eleanor on 07768228584 and leave a message***

## FoE Conference Report

This year's FoE England, Wales and Northern Ireland annual conference was one of the most enjoyable ever. Held at Reading University, the Friday evening kicked off with a fascinating debate between the ever-entertaining Ken Livingstone and the challenging Philip Blond, author of *Red Toryism*.

Saturday was packed with a variety of events, including a memorable illustrated talk by a Paraguayan activist about the terrible human and environmental impact of growing Soy in South America to provide feed for European livestock.

The presentation by Craig Bennett, who has returned to FoE as Campaign Director after five years at Cambridge University, portrayed a vision of campaigning that resonated well with the audience.

Once again though, the high point of the weekend was the Earthmovers Awards to local groups and activists. Portsmouth FoE won the best campaign award for raising a quarter of a million pounds to set up a gardening scheme for primary schools in densely urban and deprived areas of the city. A truly remarkable effort! More details can be found at [www.portsmouthfoe.org](http://www.portsmouthfoe.org)

**The FoE Cymru conference on the weekend of March 11-13<sup>th</sup> at Margam Park near Port Talbot promises to be even better.**

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### Open University Praise for FoE Cymru

An Open University course on Wales singles out Friends of the Earth Cymru for praise for its effectiveness in campaigning and lobbying the Welsh Assembly Government. Not bad for an under-funded office of three and a half staff plus a few volunteers.

### 'No Impact Man'

It was wonderful to see so many people leave Narberth Film Club with a smile on their faces and a determination to reduce their environmental impact after watching our showing of this film on Sunday 7<sup>th</sup> November.



A study for Friends of the Earth estimated how much forest is being cut down to replace food crops that have been displaced in order to grow biofuels for the UK. It revealed that when the full impact of deforestation is taken into account, biofuels added to UK petrol and diesel may be producing more than twice the carbon dioxide of the fossil fuels they replace

This is equivalent to putting half a million extra cars on the road - since the new law adding them to UK fuel came in two years ago.

A new World Bank report (September 2010) identifies biofuels as one of the driving forces of land grabs in Africa and acknowledges its detrimental impact on local livelihoods. Friends of the Earth is calling on rich countries to drop their biofuels targets and invest in planet-friendly farming.

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### PEMBROKESHIRE FoE CONTACT INFO

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