



Friends of the Earth Pembrookeshire Cyfeillion y ddaear Sir Benfro

Newsletter May 2021



Senedd elections

We hope you were able to watch the videos of the short interviews that Rebecca and Bettina conducted with many of the candidates in both the Preseli Pembrookeshire and the Carmarthen West and South Pembrookeshire constituencies. We also asked the candidates to pledge to support our ambitions for reaching zero carbon set out in the FoE [Climate action plan for Wales](#). We interviewed six candidates but were sadly not able to arrange interviews with the winning Conservative candidates. Paul Davies issued a statement which you can read on our website.

Updates from the A40 development projects: Llandewi Velfrey to Penblewin, and Redstone Cross to Penblewin

We wrote about our objections in the last newsletter, but sadly since then the Welsh Government has decided to go ahead with both sections. This is surprising as travel patterns have and still are changing due to the pandemic, and in addition to the effects of Brexit this could result in a lower demand for roads.

Extinction Rebellion Sea and river climate event, Cardigan and everywhere, 9 June 2021

You may be keen to take part - in Cardigan / Poppit or in your own area. This is a chance to have a go at sand art/ messaging/ anything you fancy in small family or friend groups in the open air. Hope you might be inspired to take part in some shape or form.

On June 10th, the leaders of the 7 wealthiest nations in the world, the G7, are meeting in Cornwall. As the host nation Britain has also invited South Africa, Australia, India and South Korea. Climate change is on the agenda. <https://www.g7uk.org/>

There are plans afoot across the UK and beyond to show the G7 and their guests that we want and need real action on climate change now. A while back, we heard that New York and some of the Pacific Islands were planning to link in with actions of their own, and other countries have also been contacted, the idea being to send a really strong message to these leaders. This is the last decade when we can make meaningful change to protect the future ... the G7 should be leading the way.

Within the UK the plan is that there will be 4 days of actions spreading across the country like a wave, starting in the North of Scotland and spreading down both coasts to Cornwall. The whole action is called The Wave. Inland areas, especially those being affected by flooding are signing up as well. Each area has one nominated official day of action; for Wales, this is Wednesday June 9th, the day before the conference starts.

Watch out for further details.

Train update

The first two units of a fleet of 77 brand new diesel passenger trains were recently moved from CAF's factory near Newport to Crewe, where they will be based for testing. We expect these trains will hinder efforts to electrify more of the UK rail network.

What we do not know is how far construction of the remaining 75 units has progressed. While any new diesel-only trains are disappointing at this time, we feel building only 25-30 of them (the minimum necessary to run TfW's planned additional services) would be preferable to building all 77. Depending on how far along the production line the remaining 47-52 trains have progressed, we hope they can either be cancelled or built as bi-mode trains (able to benefit from electrification) instead.

Some rather better rail news comes in the form of a consultation on the "Swansea Bay and West Wales Metro" (see here: <https://gov.wales/swansea-bay-and-west-wales-metro>). Despite the use of the word 'Metro', this features a wide range of rail proposals including new and improved services in Pembrokeshire as well as 'Metro' services around Swansea. **We encourage members to respond to this consultation by the 8th June deadline.**

We are trying to engage with Welsh Government, via FOE Cymru, regarding both the new trains and the road-building programme, including the miles of new A40 proposed in Pembrokeshire. We are hoping that the new climate change department, with a minister and deputy minister assigned, will be helpful to us here.



Pembrokeshire Meadows Group

With the help of **Lucia Chmurova, Conservation Officer for the Magnificent Meadows Wales Project:** **Gweirgloddiau Gwych Cymru**, Pembrokeshire has

started a meadows group. There have been 2 meetings so far and they have started a Facebook group. The idea is to encourage the establishment of new meadows and the maintenance of existing ones through the sharing of information enthusiasm and in the future, even equipment.

We are all aware of the disappearance of wild flowers from our countryside as more and more land is used for silage, maize & potatoes. Even the road verges are becoming less wild flower rich, because although they are cut at the right time, after seeding, flail cutters increase the fertility by mulching the verges every year. This rise in fertility encourages the growth of thick grasses, nettles and cow parsley.

If you have a patch of grass however small why not join the group and learn how to transform it for the benefit of insects and other wildlife. <https://www.facebook.com/groups/448396403082992/?ref=share>

You are also in time to catch the last webinar in the series 'Conservation Grazing on Grassland' which will introduce conservation grazing and its practicalities (part 1, 29th April), talk about advantages of using different animal breeds to manage meadows (part 2, 13th May), and look at grazing on different grassland habitat types (part 3, 27th May). More details on the session and to register your interest here: https://us02web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_M0iGXiQzREKIti6TGdYRvg

A link to the session on Facebook here: <https://fb.me/e/ZdrNe5xc>

Simply Milk

Many of us have given up cow's milk, but for those who still like a drop in their tea and who live near Narberth, why not try Simply Milk. First you buy your 1 litre glass bottle, available at the Happy Planet Green store and then for £1 you buy a litre of fresh, pasteurised but not homogenised, whole milk from the kiosk in the Town Moor Carpark. Once it is finished, wash out the bottle and sterilise, I use a little boiling water, you can get your next litre. The milk is delivered from a local farm, no plastic bottles, very few food miles and it is delicious. If you leave it a little you even get the joy of the 'top of the milk' on your cereal.

Big win: the Bank of England has just received a formal mandate from the government to go green!

The Financial Times is already reporting that it'll mean the UK's central bank ditching fossil fuels investments, and using its powers with private banks to do the same.

More information:

[The Old Lady turns green](#), Financial Times, 3 March 2021

[Bank of England given green remit to aid net zero carbon goal](#), Guardian, 3 March 2021

[Big win: New green mandate for the Bank of England](#), Positive Money, 3 March 2021



COP 26 and climate justice

In November, the UK will be hosting COP 26, the annual UN climate summit. We'll work with other groups across the country to plan mobilisations and actions in our communities, towns and cities as part of the global days of action on 5 and 6 November. [Read our COP 26 update.](#) Understanding climate justice is crucial for meaningfully engaging with COP 26. We've prepared [some resources to help us on that journey.](#)



The right to protest in Wales is under attack.

Earlier this year the government announced a new policing bill, which would severely clamp down on peaceful protest, criminalise the way of life of Gypsy and Traveller communities, and threaten access to the countryside.

Friends of the Earth local groups have achieved big wins for the environment through the power of protest – such as the Climate Change Act.

Together we can defeat the government's plans to criminalise peaceful protest and trespass. MPs will likely have an opportunity to vote on the legislation in July so now we have a critical window of opportunity to influence them.

Our campaign guide will help you lobby your MP and spread the word in your local community.

<https://friendsoftheearth.uk/take-action/how-campaign-against-new-policing-bill>

Ban the use of peat in horticulture and all growing media by 2023

Sign the Petition:

<https://petitions.senedd.wales/petitions/244824>

Peat bogs and moors are extremely important in the fight against the climate emergency; sequestering carbon better than many natural landscapes, reducing flooding and providing biodiversity. We need to ban the use of peat in horticulture and all growing media by 2023, including imports.

Coming up the Regional FoE Cymru gathering!
This year we've joined up with the Groundswell team to do some Wales sessions. It's our National gathering for group members and supporters.

June 11th, 12th and 13th

Check programme and sign up:

https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/friends-of-the-earth-groundswell-2021-tickets-151455510509?ref=eios&fbclid=IwAR2PXnTxRwFAOmO3phikMey7-YLAegTk5t_dPlq-nBzLIXbti8lnx_pO_R4

Next FoE zoom meeting 3 June 7.30 pm (we will possibly start later due to clashes with another meeting)

Summer walk Saturday 26 June

Do get in touch if you would like to join us for a summer walk. We are planning to walk in Pengelli Forest.



Karina's Haiku on climate change

November weather
In the merry month of May,
Must be climate change.

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

