

# Pembrokeshire Friends of the Earth

## Cyfeillion y Ddaear Sir Benfro

Newsletter November 2012



### Pembroke Power Station Success



*Protesting at the entrance to Pembroke Power Station  
On the day it opened  
19th September 2012*

We are delighted that the EC has backed our complaint that Pembroke power station's cooling system will cause unacceptable damage to the important marine environment of the Milford Haven waterway. Pembrokeshire Friends of the Earth has argued from the outset that a power station which wastes huge amounts of energy and which will kill millions of fish and other marine species each year should never have been allowed.

This decision means that the UK government will now have to demonstrate to the EC how it can reduce the environmental harm caused.



*Outfall foam from Pembroke Power Station September 2012*

It is difficult to predict what will happen next and this is likely to be a lengthy process. The main point is that we have been vindicated and action will have to be taken to ensure that one of Europe's most important marine environments will now be given greater protection.

It is also very significant that the government will not now be allowed to use this harmful cooling system at new power stations in the UK. Although the complaint to Europe was made in the name of Friends of the Earth Cymru, the Pembrokeshire group played a very important role in obtaining a positive outcome and excellent media coverage right up to the end.

### Tar sands coming to town?

In August last year Valero purchased the Pembroke refinery from Chevron; an investor presentation demonstrated its plans to export diesel from the Gulf coast to Pembroke Dock.

A public meeting was held at the Bloomfield Centre, Narberth on 30th November. It was chaired by Clive Morgan, a local energy consultant. Emily Coates from Tar Sands Network gave an illustrated talk on their recent research paper, exposing Valero's plans to bring tar sands oil to the UK. via Pembroke Dock.

The tar sands are the world's largest and dirtiest industrial project. Tar sands are extracted in an incredibly environmentally damaging way. The process emits 3.2 to 4.5 times more greenhouse gas than conventional oil extraction, uses vast amounts of fresh water and natural gas, and in many cases leaves behind lakes of toxic pollution. Tar sands developments destroy vast tracts of forest habitat, threatening wildlife with extinction.

### The Queen's Hall, Narberth 7.30pm Sunday 25th November

**Even the Rain** is an insightful, fascinating film within a film, highlighting the ongoing struggles and cycle of exploitation of the South American indigenous peoples. 500 years after Columbus, sticks and stones once again confront the high-tech weaponry of a modern army. David against Goliath. Only this time the fight is not over gold, but the simplest of life-giving elements - water.

**Admission £4.50 Free to Film on Sunday club members**  
Doors open 7pm, refreshments available





**Lakes of toxic pollution which slowly leaches out in the surrounding water courses .**

## Fuel Quality Directive

The more that one reads and hears about tar sands the more important it seems to prevent the expansion of its markets. The Fuel Quality Directive is a piece of EU legislation which could play an important role in stopping or reducing the expansion of this market. Jill Evans outlined this at our meeting. A measure of its importance is the way the Canadian government has been lobbying so hard against it.

The directive would require fuel suppliers to reduce the lifecycle greenhouse gas emissions per unit of energy (GHG intensity) of the fuel/energy they supply by 6% by 2020. This would clearly be much harder to achieve if diesel is derived from high-emitting oil sands, making it much less competitive and making it much harder for companies such as Valero to 'slip it in under the radar' The UK has refused to back the EU proposal as it now stands.

The FQD has been agreed by the European parliament and is being proposed by Connie Hedegaard, the EU commissioner for climate change. **In the UK this matter is being dealt with by the Department of Transport and we are asking members to write letters to the DoT and their MEP's in order to increase the pressure for agreement and implementation of this measure.** A specimen letter will be sent out by email and will be available to download from the website.

## Global Day of Action - December 1st 2012 International Demonstrations on Climate Change

At the time of the United Nations Talks on climate change (COP18/MOP8)) in Qatar, to book your seat on a coach to London (£20 approx.)

Contact: [brian.jackson@phonecoop.coop](mailto:brian.jackson@phonecoop.coop)

## Europe's rate of offshore wind installation up by 50%

The turbines installed this year have a capacity of 523.2 megawatts (MW), whereas in the first half of 2011, 348.1 MW of capacity was installed.

As of 30 June 2012 Europe's total offshore wind capacity was enough to power four million homes. A further 160 turbines have been built in 2012 but have yet to be fully connected to the grid. If connected by the end of the year, it could make 2012 the most successful year yet for offshore wind energy in Europe.

"Offshore wind power is increasingly attracting investors," said Christian Kjaer, chief executive of the European Wind Energy Association. "Offshore wind power creates jobs in Europe, reduces our fuel import costs, and avoids the global and local health and environmental costs of extracting, transporting and burning fossil fuels," he said. *Positive News 5th Oct*



*Photo of Mersey offshore windfarm, winner of FoE Clean British Energy photo competition*

### Illustrated talk on the Atlantic Array Offshore Windfarm 22nd November

**at New Hedges Hall at 7pm**

arranged by Pembrokeshire South East Energy Group

**Wind farms remain under attack and need to be supported.**

*The Pembrokeshire Coast National Park development have voiced their fears about the Atlantic Array Clir Paul Harris said it would "fundamentally go against the conservation of the natural beauty of the national Park" .*

*The National Trust has objected to the site of the Atlantic Array on aesthetic grounds.*

**Not sure what to give someone for Christmas!**

**Why not give them a years membership of Pembrokeshire FoE?**

**Contact [rccadbury@doctors.org.uk](mailto:rccadbury@doctors.org.uk) for more details and your gift pack**



## 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary celebration

On a sunny if cold Sunday in October about 50 current or ex members and supporters gathered at the Fourcroft Hotel in Tenby to celebrate the 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the group. After a very good buffet lunch, we settled down to listen to the four speakers.

Blaise Bullimore kicked off with an illustrated talk about the marine environment and the threats it faces from pollution and fishing. Blaise is well known to many as a distinguished marine biologist and now works in marine environmental management and monitoring and is a European marine site officer for Carmarthen Bay and estuaries.

Gordon James, co-founder of Pembrokeshire FoE, followed with a run through of the history of the group, illustrated with slides of the actions over the last 25 years. He reviewed the many successful campaigns, the media events, practical jobs i.e. recycling and beach and river cleaning. He gave us many humorous recollections of incidents from the past and complimented the co-ordinators past and present and all the other active members on their hard work.

Charles Secrett, Executive Director of FoE between 1992 and 2001 with distinguished career as an environmental activist, campaigner, broadcaster and writer, gave us an entertaining and inspiring speech on the challenges faced by the environmental movement. When he was director of Friends of the Earth, Charles visited Pembrokeshire on a number of occasions, particularly at the time of the Sea Empress oil spill and the orimulsion campaign.

Finally Gareth Clubb Director of FoE Cymru who has worked for NGOs in Colombia and Madagascar, the Department for International Development in Cambodia and Bangladesh and at the European Commission in Brussels rounded off with a look at the challenge of climate change and future campaigning of FoE in Wales to meet this challenge.

The afternoon ended with an intrepid few, five in all, who took to the sea for a sponsored swim. We raised £250.



## Proposed power station must maximise efficiency and address local concerns.

The proposed new power station at the South Hook LNG terminal should only be permitted if it productively uses all the waste heat it produces. As well as using this heat to re-gasify the very cold Liquefied Natural Gas on the tankers, we would like to see any surplus waste heat used to provide affordable heating to local homes and businesses. This would help to cut fuel bills and carbon emissions, and create more jobs.

It is important that local complaints about noise and pollution are fully investigated and addressed before any further developments are allowed in this area, and that no further harm is caused to Pembrokeshire's vitally important marine environment.

Gas has a role to play in our shift to a low carbon economy but only if it is burnt as efficiently as possible.

**The Government will introduce a new Energy Bill which is scheduled to go through Parliament on 19th November 2012 to reform the electricity market.**

If we get it right we can make the most of the UK's vast renewable energy potential. This would help stabilise bills, create thousands of jobs and help the fight against climate change.

The governments current proposals won't deliver this vision. They risk us being locked into a high carbon future based on expensive fossil fuels.

**CLEAN  
BRITISH  
ENERGY**

**Urgent take action,**  
go to : [www.foe.co.uk](http://www.foe.co.uk)

Tell Energy Secretary Ed Davey to switch our UK power supply to renewable energy

One in four UK households is in fuel poverty, unable to afford to heat their home— yet funding for improving energy efficiency is being cut .

FOE is calls for the treasury to spend the £4 billion it receives each year from carbon taxes on energy efficiency measures for low income households. Find out more at

[www.energybillrevolution.org](http://www.energybillrevolution.org)



### Collective Catwalk

Cyd-Greu/Co-Create a co-operative movement, who take post consumer fabric waste and create new from old in the form of unique, ethical garments, presented the collective fruit of new designers and makers on Halloween night at Rhosygilwen.

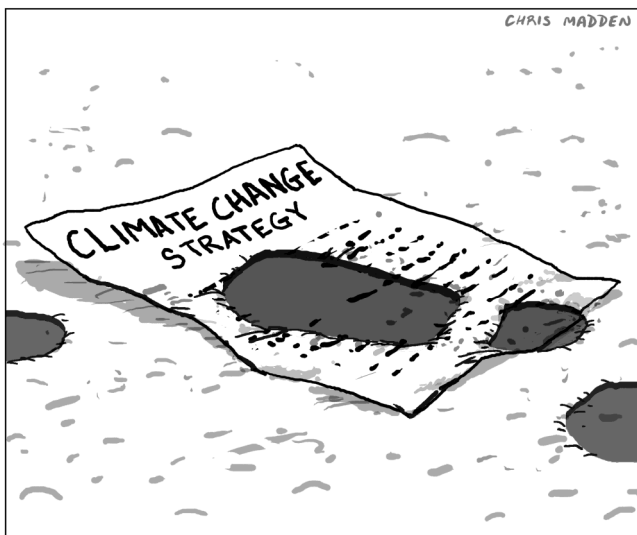
The inspiration behind the creations was an eclectic

mix of nature's magical forms, street style gothic, the bold and the ethereal borne out of up-cycled clothing classes and friendships forged over hot sewing machines.

They presented real women in their natural glory; as maidens, mothers and crones, curvaceous, well structured, petite, mature, wise and experienced. All beautiful.

The clothes can be found locally at Beautify Me, Newcastle Emlyn and at the Newport Collective Gallery, Newport Pems .

**Cyd-Greu/Co-Create** is currently raising funds to produce a website but in the meantime if you would like to keep in touch with Up-cycled Sewing workshops and Events contact [carys.hedd@gmail.com](mailto:carys.hedd@gmail.com) or have a look at [www.wenchwear.co.uk](http://www.wenchwear.co.uk)



### CARBON FOOTPRINTS

### [www.pembrokeshire.co.uk](http://www.pembrokeshire.co.uk)

Over the summer with the help of Chris Allman from PAVS we have revamped our website. It is still very much a work in progress but hopefully it is now easier for the non computer literate of us to update and so will become a better source of news for the group. We may even get so far as membership applications on line. Please check it out and pass on your comments. We would also welcome contributions and help from any computer literate members!

### Pembrokeshire Friends of the Earth AGM Thursday 17th January 2013 the seminar room the Bloomfield Centre Narberth at 7pm

*Refreshments will be served*

It will be followed at 7.30pm by a showing of: -

### FOUR HORSEMEN

The issues raised in this film have far reaching implications for each of us. Despite what politicians



say in their search for regaining economic growth we will never return to 'business as usual'.

23 leading thinkers -



**Our stall at the Narberth Food Festival** was well supported with plenty of help from our members, sprouting antennae and wings.

People were asked to sign letters to David Cameron as part of our Bee Cause Campaign which aims to get the Government produce a National Bee Action Plan to ensure a comprehensive set of measures is put in place to reverse bee decline and avoid rising costs to farmers and consumers. 380 letters were signed.

Take action go to :- [www.foe.uk.org](http://www.foe.uk.org)

### Pembrokeshire FoE Contact Info

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