

# Pembrokeshire Friends of the Earth

## Cyfeillion y Ddaear Sir Benfro

Newsletter July 2013



### Success for bee cause campaign

**We've done it! Bees Minister Lord de Mauley has announced a National Pollinator Strategy. On behalf of everyone at Friends of the Earth - and every bee in the country - thank you. You've done something incredible.**

Your emails, phone calls, and petition signatures have made their mark. Over the past week you've ramped up the pressure on MPs and our Bees Minister with over 20,000 petition signatures and hundreds of you picking up the phone.

Lord de Mauley acknowledged this, describing the "strength of feeling there is for bees and pollinators. A strength of feeling echoed in thousands of emails, letters and petition signatures over the past months."

Bees need us almost as much as we need them. And you've come to their rescue in their hour of need, persuading the Government to step up. Announcing a National Pollinator Strategy is an important step in the right direction. Now the hard work starts. It will still take some time for the Government's bee-saving measures to be finalised. So we will need to keep up the campaign.

### ***Lammas eco village guided tour on Saturday 27th July at 11am***

***The tour will be lead by Melissa who keeps bees and we will visit her apiary.***

*There is a charge of £4 per person*

***Meet at the car park by the visitors centre(Hub) at Lammas at 11am. Go through the village of Glandwr, carry straight on, the entrance to the eco-village is on the left hand side of the road, clearly marked.***

*Phone Eleanor at :- 01437 532575 to lift share from Narberth/ Glandy Cross.*

### Base Camp-sunshine and inspiration

The Base Camp was an action-packed, sunny, July weekend in The Peak District National Park for FoE activists. There were about a hundred people camping, others were staying in the Hostel at Hartington where the



events were held in a marquee and yurts in the shady gardens. Participants included volunteers from else-where in the green movement with the aim of engaging new faces in FOE's work.

Craig Bennett, FOE's Policy and Campaigns Director started Saturdays sessions using stacks of recycled toilet rolls to illustrate that FOE views are now those of the majority. Surveys show 75% of the population want more renewable energy; it is our opponents who are the extremists.

We need to be open and willing to have discussion, to reach out and engage with people. We can afford to be innovative and take risks.



Love of nature inspires people and we need to celebrate the wonders of this planet and its biodiversity. The Bee Cause reached out to a wider audience and offered a practical way for people to take part while our Climate Change Campaigns, although very successful were not so appealing and straight forward for people to understand.

Residents Action on Fylde Fracking (RAFF) won this year's Earthmovers' Campaign of the Year award. It was voted at the Motions debate to make anti-fracking one of the priority campaigns.

George Monbiot delivered a gripping and eloquent talk about rewilding nature - drawn from his new book "Feral".

He proposes that the upland areas of Britain's are left to return to their natural woodland state, allowing for greater biodiversity.



## Disappointment over Clean Energy Bill

Letter printed in the Western Telegraph

Dear Editor

Given the urgent need to tackle climate change, curb fuel bills, and bring new skilled jobs to South West Wales, I was disappointed that Carmarthen West and South Pembrokeshire MP Simon Hart did not vote in favour of including a clean power target in the Government's Energy Bill earlier this month.

The Government's independent advisers say that a target to take fossil fuels out of our electricity by 2030 is the cheapest way for the UK to meet its legally-binding commitments to tackle climate change.

A clean power target is also a huge opportunity to boost our stalling economy. More than 100 UK businesses say it will provide the certainty they need to invest in green industries, which could bring new jobs to South West Wales.

Without the target, Britain faces a headlong dash for gas, which would send household fuel bills soaring and see jobs lost overseas. Simon Hart must explain his actions to his constituents.

Although narrowly defeated, it was good to see that many of Mr Hart's coalition colleagues did stand up for the right thing.

I urge him to reconsider the issue before further votes in Parliament at the end of the year.

Yours sincerely

Dr Rebecca Cadbury



### Andy Atkins FOE Director speaking in Narberth

In the Photo left to right: Eleanor Clegg, Richard Darwin, Vicky Moller, Andy Atkins, Rebecca Cadbury, Jane Davidson, Karina Russel, Brian John and Steve Hack.

We were very pleased to welcome Andy Atkins to a meeting held jointly with Carmarthen FOE at the Bloomfield Centre Narberth.

(continued top of next column)

He talked of the urgent need to decarbonise the economy and also the opportunity, such a policy would create for jobs Pembrokeshire and for Wales.

We were pleased to have contribution from Jane Davidson. Our thanks also to Brian John for chairing the meeting and lively discussion that followed. We all left inspired to continue to fight for a greener future.

**According to the CBI, green business activity now employs around 940,000 people in the UK and accounted for over a third of all UK growth in 2011/12.**

## Renewable Energy Success Story

*"Renewable energy will overtake gas as a source of electricity globally within three years. By 2018, a quarter of the world's electricity will come from sources like hydropower and wind. This has been done with only sporadic government support, and in the face of opponents arguing that*

### Poetry Workshop

**Sunday 15th September 2013**

**2.30-4.30pm at Narberth Museum**

**FoE Cymru invites writers of all levels of experience to come along to a bee-themed poetry workshop, led by eco-poet Susan Richardson. This is one of series of workshops that are being held in different parts of Wales to coincide with, and support, FoE's Bee Cause project**

In a fun, stimulating and supportive environment, you will be guided through a series of writing exercises, be inspired by a variety of bee-themed prompts, and receive valuable feedback on the poems you produce. In the process, you will explore how poetry can encourage people to take direct action and also how it can engage new and wider audiences with the **Bee Cause** in an imaginative and dynamic way.

Susan is an experienced poet, performer and educator who specialises in environmental/wildlife/conservation themes and who has more than fifteen years' experience of encouraging people of all ages and backgrounds to engage with the natural world and environmental issues through writing. For further information about her work, please visit [www.susanrichardsonwriter.co.uk](http://www.susanrichardsonwriter.co.uk)

There is no cost for attending the workshop. Please bring paper and pens with you.

**Places are strictly limited, so book early to avoid disappointment by emailing : [silhouette@cooptel.net](mailto:silhouette@cooptel.net)**



## A tribute to Val Jones who died in May this year - by Gordon James

Whenever I think of Val, I see the smiling face of someone who was at her happiest when she was surrounded by her loving family; and a person who was always positive and optimistic no matter what challenges she faced. And she certainly faced a few challenges with ill health in her later years.

I first met Val on a paddle steamer 25 years ago. We were on a colourful anti-nuclear protest, which Val had organised, on the PS Waverely that sailed from Penarth to the Hinkley nuclear power station and back.

A couple of years later, I received a phone call from Val informing me that she, her husband Ken, and daughter Sandra and family were moving to Pembrokeshire. At the time, Pembrokeshire Friends of the Earth was busy campaigning against plans to burn orimulsion fuel at Pembroke power station. As soon as she arrived here Val got stuck into the campaign.

And this showed another aspect of Val's character, her courage. She moved to Coarside, overlooking Freshwater



West Bay, not far from the power station, and she soon went door-to-door in the area with a petition, knowing that she would often come face-to-face on the doorstep with power station workers or others who strongly disagreed with her.

A little later, Val also took a front-line role in our response to the Sea Empress disaster

Val then became the Coordinator of the group and formed an excellent working partnership with the group's secretary, Sandra Pellowe. The two worked extremely well together guiding the group through numerous successes, such as preventing the dumping of nuclear waste at Trecwm and the growing of GM crops at Mathry.

We had a stall at the Narberth Food Festival last year and were collecting signatures from people, as they walked by, for our save the bee campaign. Things were ticking over quite steadily when Val turned up with her granddaughter Lilly. They both put the literature onto a clipboard and walked off into the crowd where they collected as many signatures in an hour as the rest of us did in half a day.

Recently, she and Ken started a campaign to have VAT lowered on goods for disabled people, and for carers to be paid for travel time between seeing clients. She'd also started working on another issue – the pedestrianisation of Pembroke High Street.

I was privileged to have known Val and to have worked with her. We have lost a very special person but memories of her warmth, courage, sense of (cont. Top next column)

humour and commitment to so many worthy causes will remain with us and inspire us.

**HELP NEEDED AT NARBERTH CHILDREN'S FESTIVAL 14TH-15TH AUGUST ON TOWN MOOR, NARBERTH.**

**THE THEME OF THE FESTIVAL IS ENDANGERED SPECIES AND WE WILL BE FOCUSING ON BEES.**

**WE WILL HAVE A STALL AND BEE THEMED ACTIVITIES FOR CHILDREN OF ALL AGES**

*"I don't have patience for anyone who denies that this problem (climate change) is real. We don't have time for a meeting of the Flat Earth society. Sticking your head in the sand might make you feel safer, but it's not going to protect you from the coming storm."*  
Obama

[The president of the actual Flat Earth Society accepts climate science, adding insult to injury for climate deniers.]

*US Senator Gaylord Nelson: "the economy is a wholly owned subsidiary of the environment",*

**'What Has Nature Ever Done For Us?' by Tony Juniper, the former director of Friends of the Earth, is a fascinating fact-filled account of the services that nature provides for us. The environment really is our life support system. The book has a forward by The Prince of Wales and has been very favourably reviewed.**



### The Big plant Sale

Pictured are members of Narberth Friends of the Earth, together with Narberth Scouts and Beaver groups, Councillor Wynne and members of SPAN Arts

Thanks to everyone who supported us; we raised £200



Longtime activist with Pembrokeshire Friends of the Earth, Gordon James, was recently invited to a tea party at Buckingham Palace in recognition of his environmental work over many years.

Karina is hiding under the hat.

## President Obama finally acts on climate change

President Obama has given the first-ever major address on climate change by an US president. In this he has promised "a national plan to reduce carbon pollution, prepare our country for the impacts of climate change, and lead global efforts to fight it".

It will be certain that he will face fierce opposition from Republicans, most of whom are still stuck in the delusion of climate change denial, and progress will still be too slow to satisfy most of us. But having the world's most powerful politician make such a declaration is a huge boost to all those who are campaigning for meaningful action on climate change.

As expected, the President did not announce a decision on the controversial Keystone XL tar sands pipeline which would transport this filthy fuel from Canada to oil refineries in the Gulf Coast area of the USA. This has considerable significance for us here in Pembrokeshire because diesel partly derived from tar sands is likely to be imported through the Pembroke refinery.

On this, Obama said:

*"I know there's been a lot of controversy surrounding the proposal to build the pipeline, the Keystone pipeline that would carry oil from Canadian tar sands down to refineries in the Gulf."*

*"Our national interest will be served only if this project does not significantly exacerbate the problem of carbon pollution. The net effects of the pipeline's impact — (applause) — the net effects of the pipeline's impact on our climate will be absolutely critical to determining whether this project is allowed to go forward."*

That means he should reject the proposal. But, don't hold your breath. He will come under immense pressure to approve it. We will find out in the autumn.

**The application for two community wind turbines in Llanfyrnach put forward by Cwm Arian Renewable Energy( CARE) is coming before the planning committee at Haverfordwest County Council offices on Tuesday 30th July at 10am.**

**Please come and give your support.**

**To register your support for the project go to:- [www.cwmarian.org.uk](http://www.cwmarian.org.uk), where there is a link to the council planning website.**

## Tar Sands and Fuel Quality Directive

An Early Day Motion (EDM) sponsored by Caroline Lucas went before Parliament in June urging the Government to support proposals for separate default values for unconventional fuels, including oil shale and tar sands, during negotiations and in the vote in the EU Council of Ministers later this year.

## Pembrokeshire Life.

**The latest issue (July) of the Pembrokeshire Life magazine has a three page article about the history of Pembrokeshire Friends of the Earth with some interesting photos. Definitely worth buying.**

## Youth climate change committee formed.

A new youth climate change committee has been set up in a bid to engage more young people in the UK with climate change policy. The Independent Youth Committee on Climate Change has been launched at a time when UN statistics revealed that 75% of 11-16-year-olds are worried about how climate change will impact on their world. More details can be found here: [www.iyccc.co.uk](http://www.iyccc.co.uk)

***Meeting of People's Assembly against Wilful Austerity***

***Followed by a meeting of the Green Party on 6th August at 7.30pm at the Phoenix Centre Goodwick***

*Pembrokeshire Peace Group is meeting to on Hiroshima Day 6th August in the town centre in Haverfordwest at 9pm to protest against the nuclear power and weapons*

## Pembrokeshire FoE Contact Info

Post: c/o Span Arts, Town Moor,  
Narberth SA67 7AG

Website: [www.foepembrokeshire.co.uk](http://www.foepembrokeshire.co.uk)  
[/www.facebook.com/PembrokeshireFriendsOfTheEarth](http://www.facebook.com/PembrokeshireFriendsOfTheEarth).

Telephone: 07768228584