

Pembrokeshire Friends of the Earth

Cyfeillion y Ddaear Sir Benfro

Newsletter July 2015



For the Love of....

On the 17th June a huge crowd gathered at the Houses of Parliament to lobby their MP's on climate change. Dave Robinson and Rebecca went to represent Pembrokeshire Friends of the Earth. Rebecca joined three other constituents from Christian Aid to ask Simon Hart to support our demands for measures to improve energy conservation, a clean energy future based on renewable and climate justice. While supporting improved energy efficiency and the Swansea tidal lagoon he was careful to avoid further commitments.

Climate Justice Quiz

Questions (Answers on back page)

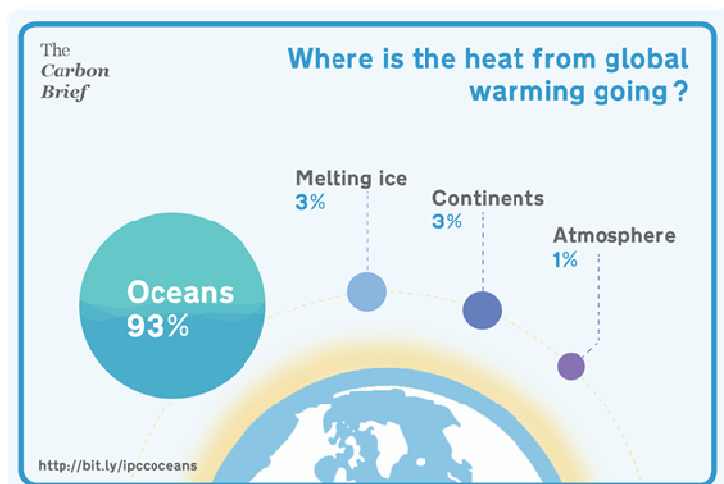
1. What is the estimated number of people dying directly from the impacts of climate change?
2. What is the estimated number of climate refugees in the world today?
3. What is the current level of warming?
4. 100 countries have called a global temperature rise of less than what?
5. How many people are estimated to die from air pollution?

6. How much do the rich countries of the world contribute to historical emissions versus the developing world which includes India China and Brazil?
7. What percentage of the world population live in the G7 (ie the 7 richest countries)?
8. What is the **average** income in \$ in the G7, China, India and the least developed nations?
9. What is the required contribution to the reduction in CO₂ (in giga tons)?
10. What has actually been pledged?
11. What is the total wealth of the G7 countries?
12. What do the G7 countries pay in direct subsidies to dirty energy?
13. How much do the G7 contribute to the UN climate finance fund?
14. What is the total direct and indirect subsidies paid to dirty energy globally?

Wales Failing on Climate Change

Emissions of climate-changing gases in Wales rose by over 10% between 2012 and 2013, according to the annual report of the Committee on Climate Change. The main reason for this failure was the increase in emissions from steelworks and the change from gas to coal in powers stations. The Committee is urging the Welsh Government to take stronger action otherwise it is likely to miss its target of cutting these omissions by 40% from 1990 levels by 2020.

Take Action. Please write to your Assembly Members urging them to take climate change more seriously by, for instance, giving more support to energy efficiency, renewable energy and public transport.





Basecamp 2015 took place over the weekend of 12-14 June. 450 activists came to Derbyshire to learn, collaborate and have a good time.

Pictures, clockwise, starting top left include: A swing dance lesson.

Yurts where workshops took place.

YHA buildings etc

A Top of Mam Tor

Closing event with children involved in a piece of theatre about persuading a banker to change his ideas on investment.

Completion of clay pizza oven

There was a packed programme of workshops, films and debates about the environment and practical hands on sessions such as willow weaving and other crafts, song writing, sketching and story telling. In the evening there was live music. The food provided by the hostel was excellent and on Saturday dinner was provided by *The Real Junk Food Project* who produced a delicious, nutritious meal from waste food from supermarkets and restaurants

George Marshall at FoE basecamp

Seasoned climate change campaigner George Marshall shared a strong message for better communication about climate change. He sees the current link between identities and a position with respect to climate change as a real problem. Increasingly, especially in the US but also in the UK, climate change denial is linked to conservative identities and values whereas climate change action and protest is linked to 'leftish' identities. This split means that people who don't identify as 'leftish' feel that climate change is not a topic for them.

George Marshall wants to help shift the way the discourse is framed to make climate change into an issue for everyone. He has toured the US and talked to members of the tea party, as well as climate change deniers, to explore how to do this. He argues for strong communication that validates people's identity and makes acting against climate change into an identity affirming action. In his workshop he played extracts from a speech given by Margaret Thatcher on climate change in the late 1980s where she affirmed that climate change was threatening conservative values and a conservative outlook on society. This link has since sadly got lost. George Marshall wants to address this to achieve better action on climate change. More on this is in his new book 'Don't Even Think About It - Why Our Brains Are Wired To Ignore Climate Change', why not add it to your reading list for the summer.

We would like to say a big thank you to Janet and Rhys Daniel who generously donated half their profits from their exhibition in St Davids.

ECO-SOUL

(CYFFRO)

Lichen wrap round limbs
dancing to sacred rhythms
freeing green spirit

LUNAR ECLIPSE

(PRESELI)

My mindful moment is eclipsed
by your lunar escapade,
pitching the Taf into tar
as you slip-slide sideways
backing away-
leaving a satsuma glow
that winters and trickles
through twigs of pearl pear-
A partridge sits awaiting her fate
in Preseli's palace, a solstice gate.

JTD, 2014

Fracking campaign wins!

A landmark victory has been won against fracking. On 29 June Lancashire Council stood strong, listened to the people and turned down fracking company Cuadrilla's applications to frack at two sites in Lancashire! It's a huge win for the communities of Lancashire, for the anti-fracking movement and for people everywhere fighting dangerous climate change.

You can still do your bit and sign our petition on our website for a frack-free Pembrokeshire!

Budget Weakens Climate Action

The Conservative government's retreat from effective action to tackle climate change continued in the budget.

- Electricity from renewable sources will no longer be exempt from the Climate Change Levy, a tax on energy use paid by businesses. This could wipe 6% off the income for onshore windfarms and make some planned projects unviable.
- There will be an expansion of tax relief for oil and gas exploration.
- Vehicle excise duty, from 2017, will increase for low emission cars and decrease for those with the highest emissions. For instance, a Toyota Prius hybrid could see road tax increase from £10 in the first year to £140. A Land Rover Freelander would see its first year rate fall from £800 to £140.
- Fuel duty will remain frozen, breaking a previous government pledge that it would rise if oil prices remained below \$75 a barrel.
- Money raised from vehicle excise duty will go into a road building fund, which can be expected to increase car use, rather than into better public transport or cycling.

A study, published in Environmental Research Letters, shows that the record-breaking heat in England in 2014 was at least 13-times more likely because of human-caused climate change (Carbon Brief 1st of May 2015).

FoE Cymru National Gathering

Once again the National gathering was held at Hebron Hall, Dinas Powys with an interesting and varied programme. Friday evening was a chance to catch up on the campaigns and achievements over the last year, while on Saturday Andy Atkins, who is leaving Friends of the earth after 7 years as Director, began by looking at the Nature Programme. The goal of this programme is to improve and reverse the decline of key species. After the success of the Bee Cause nature is seen as way of engaging with a wider group of supporters and getting them to engage with climate change through its impact on nature.

The next topic covered was a proposed campaign for the return of a bottle and can deposit scheme in Wales. Michael Butterfield gave an inspiring talk on the work of the Llangattock litter pickers. They started out collecting 30 tyres and 35 bags of rubbish of which about 65% is recyclable. This has reduced remarkably but has now levelled off. Now 75% of the remaining litter is related to drinks containers and it is this that has convinced them that the way forward is a deposit recovery scheme. Gareth Clubb described how such a scheme would work. In fact

Climate change meeting with Simon Hart

There are, within the Conservative Party, a number of MPs who either deny or doubt the science of climate change. The Government has failed to deliver on energy efficiency and is undermining progress on renewable energy by removing subsidies for large-scale solar farms and for onshore windfarms. While it is turning its back on these lower cost options, it is backing the more costly, complicated and controversial policies of developing shale gas and nuclear power in a vain attempt to cut carbon emissions.

These are some of the points raised by four members of Pembrokeshire FoE - Eleanor Clegg, David Robinson, Rebecca Cadbury and Gordon James - when they met Simon Hart MP at his surgery at the Regency Hall in Saundersfoot on Friday 26th of June. The MP assured us that he does accept the science of climate change, will support policies that his government introduces to address the problem and will work closely with us in the future.

We presented him with a Climate Change Update paper, listing evidence of climate change science and failures of government policy, which we prepared for the meeting. We also informed him of a recent Carbon Trust report about floating offshore wind turbines, written by Llanfallteg-born Rhodri James for the Scottish Government, which also identifies the South West Wales coast as an area where they could be sited, providing a boost to the economy of the Milford Haven waterway. It is extremely important to offer positive solutions to the problems we identify.

We shall continue to feed the MP for West Carmarthen and South Pembrokeshire relevant information on climate change, monitor his activities and meet him again in the not too distant future. We are also arranging a meeting with Stephen Crabb MP.

The full text of the Climate Change Update is available on the Pembrokeshire FoE website.

Continued:

several US states run such schemes with remarkable success and Scotland is looking at it, so why not here in Wales?

The morning was then rounded off by a presentation of the plans for the tidal Lagoon in Swansea bay. This is a very ambitious project which aims to provide clean renewable electricity over 120 years. It is daunting in its scale and not without potential environmental risks, but it is exciting to see real attempts to provide long term green solutions taking place here in Wales.

In the afternoon Alan Simpson came to tell us about the Energiewende phenomenon in Germany. He showed many examples of community energy projects in Germany. It was so good to see attractive exciting architecture providing urban solutions with the imaginative use of solar thermal, solar PV, wind and biomass producing combined heat and power. Friends of the Earth Cymru will be campaigning for Wales to follow this lead and transform the way we produce, use and store our energy.



Craig speaking at Base Camp

Craig Bennett is FoE's new Chief Executive .

Craig was Director of Policy and Campaigns for FoE following three years at The University of Cambridge Programme for Sustainability Leadership where he was Deputy Director of the institution .

In a recent email to local groups he wrote:

"My ambition is for us to work together to transform Friends of the Earth and put us again at the leading edge of the environment movement; to become more adventurous, more entrepreneurial, more well known, more accessible to more people and ultimately, more impactful".

A 40 Dualling

Press reports indicate that political pressure to dual the A 40 between St Clears and Haverfordwest is building.

Supporters of the dualling, such as Paul Davies AM, fail to mention that a faster road into Pembrokeshire would also be a faster road out of the county for local people to shop in towns like Carmarthen and Swansea, and a faster road through the county for visitors to travel to Ireland. The building of the fast A 55 dual carriageway across North Wales to the port of Holyhead has not prevented Anglesey having one of the lowest levels of GDP in the UK.

The cost of building this dual carriageway could be over £500 million, reducing journey time between St Clears in Haverfordwest by just seven minutes, and likely creating a bottleneck at the Haverfordwest A 40 roundabout.

Bottlenecks in South Wales presently occur on roundabouts, such as at Merlin's Bridge, either end of Carmarthen and Cross Hands, not on the stretch of the A40 that some want to dual. More money spent on large road-building projects results in less money being available for other public services, such as public transport, health and education.

Pembrokeshire FoE has always supported upgrades on the A 40, such as the Canaston Bridge roundabout and the Roberston Wathen by-pass, and other projects that improve safety, such as special measures for farm vehicles and livestock, and extra lanes to enable overtaking where appropriate. A dual carriageway does not guarantee freedom from accidents; there have been some terrible accidents on the Carmarthen to St Clears section of the A 40 over the years.

Answers to quiz

1. 700,000 pa
2. Up to 40 million
3. 0.8
4. 1.5
5. 3.75 – 5 million Mainly as a result of cooking of open fires
6. 54% vs 46%
7. 11%
8. \$44,300, \$6700, \$3148 & \$1461
9. 235
10. 30
11. \$263 trillion
12. \$18 billion
13. \$1.9 billion
14. \$5.8 trillion

Traws Link Cymru

Say they have made significant progress in their campaign to re-build the railway between Carmarthen and Aberystwyth and they will be talking about these developments at our public meeting in Victoria Hall, Lampeter starting at 7:00pm on Saturday 25th July The Welsh Government will be commissioning research towards a full feasibility study for which they have provided £30,000.

Heart of Wales Line free travel for over sixties, using their bus passes from this October 1st till March 31st 2016



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