



Friends of the Earth Pembroke Cyfeillion y ddaear Sir Benfro

Newsletter August 2018

Support needed for our core group!

Please consider joining the Pembroke FoE core group. We need new members as some of us have worked hard in the core group for many years and want to retire. We meet once a month and are a friendly lot, and many interesting tasks wait to be done. Get in touch if you feel you'd like to join!

A success – the Egnedol planning application has been refused!

After a very lengthy planning process and several interventions by Pembroke FoE together with Biofuelwatch and The Environmental Network Pembroke (TENP), thankfully the planning application was turned down by the Welsh Government minister. The reasons given were that the applicant, Egnedol, gave insufficient consideration to marine wildlife and the protected sites, as well as some of the development being outside of the land specified for development in the Local Development Plan. While these are perfectly good reasons to reject the application, we were disappointed to see that neither the Inspector nor the Minister had considered the lack of sustainability of the biomass and the dangers of explosion from the gasification plant. However, the application is rejected so thankfully these issues won't become reality. Now we need to look out what Egnedol's next step will be as they do own the site.

Narberth Food Festival

Please support our stand in conjunction with Plastic Free Narberth.



Plastic Free Narberth



A small core group has now been formed and looks to organise a programme of events and actions. On Sunday 5 August we had a litter pick in Narberth and collected several bags full of plastic. Much of it is to be found in the verges next to roads, in layers from old and shredded to new. Archaeologists of the future will wonder why people in the Anthropocene dropped this stuff next to these tarmacked arteries on which they were driving their inefficient oil-driven vehicles...



The European Commission has taken a leap forward in tackling plastic pollution, with new laws to reduce throwaway single-use plastics. The proposal, which is designed to prevent and reduce the impact of certain

plastic products on the environment, and in particular the marine environment, sets a number of different policy measures to tackle these problematic single-use products, from bans and reduction efforts, to labelling and extended producer responsibility schemes.



Report back from Base Camp held this June in Castleton in the Peak District

Global warming can be reversed. Crystal Chissel spoke about Project Drawdown. Based in California the team of over 70 researchers identifies 80 substantive solutions that, if implemented collectively, could realistically keep us from catastrophe. The team carefully measured the solutions that are already up and running around the world and modelled how they might be scaled up in the next 30 years. All solutions modelled are already in place, well understood, analysed, based on peer reviewed science and are expanding round the world.

Crystal said that to get people to take action on climate change they need to feel empowered. The idea of mitigating climate change may lead to people feeling guilty and apathetic. The message needs to be positive i.e. global warming can be reversed.

They have published a book which is a comprehensive update on everything to do with climate change, and more information is available on their website www.drawdown.org

Sacrifice Zones Asad Rehman the Executive Director of War on Want, a key figure in FOE's global justice movement, spoke about the links between environment, race and equality, and how much of the world is "othered". Creating sacrifice zones is one of the mechanisms of neo-liberalism. Haiti is an example of this, it became a republic in 1804 following a slave uprising, but it had to pay out financial compensation to past slave owners. Later the USA supported brutal dictators in order to keep prices of labour down for their agri-business.

Connecting Our Struggles. Speakers from a Disability Rights group, an LGBT group and War Against Poverty spoke. In the present political climate it is important

we collaboratively fight for justice. Hearing about, lifelong struggles just to maintain a minimal standard of living for themselves and their families was very moving.

My World My Home, the new youth network in FOE.

A lively Muslim faith group attended the conference which included some very confident young women. They all seemed to be having a really good time.

Craig Bennet Director of FOE said that FOE's focus is on making Britain the first developed country to leave fossil fuels in the ground.

Concerns about nuclear energy developments

The Welsh Anti-Nuclear Alliance (WANA) is becoming increasingly concerned about what is happening in Wales and surrounding areas at present around energy i.e. new nuclear reactors planned on Anglesey and SMR's at Trawsfynydd, radioactive mud about to be dumped in the Cardiff Grounds from construction at Hinkley Point Nuclear Power Station (Somerset) and the rejection of the Swansea Tidal Lagoon. Amazingly we have a UK Government that's totally sold on an outdated and dangerous nuclear programme that will cost the earth and leave nuclear waste behind for decades.

WANA has put together an e-petition. Please look at <https://www.assembly.wales/en/gethome/e-petitions/Pages/petitiondetail.aspx?PetitionID=1373>

Trump Demo



A number of Pembrokeshire FoE supporters, pictured here with their banner in central London, travelled recently with a bus load of other anti-Trump protesters from the county to join the huge carnival-style demonstration against the world's No.1 climate criminal.

The turnout at the event was four or five times larger than predicted indicating the strength of opposition in the UK to the compulsive liar, racist, homophobic, misogynist and anti-environmental incumbent in the White House. The rogue president admitted that he stayed out of central London because he had been made to feel so unwelcome. The long march through the streets of the capital was peppered with humorous placards ridiculing Trump's narcissistic and unstable personality.



Fracking news

Cuadrilla has got the go ahead to start fracking in Little Plumpton in Lancashire where daily protests have been mounted for the last two years. This comes at a slightly awkward time as there has been a heat wave and possible hose pipe ban. A US Geological Survey study in 2015 told us that "Oil and natural gas fracking, on average, uses more than 28 times the water it did 15 years ago, gulping up to 9.6 million gallons of water per well and putting farming and drinking sources at risk in arid states, especially during drought."

"Disgraceful that the Government has quietly signed off fracking on a busy last day before recess. They've ignored local people, overruled local councillors and torn up our commitments to tackle climate change" Caroline Lucas MP. FOE say this not the end of their campaign in Lancashire says they will keep fighting.

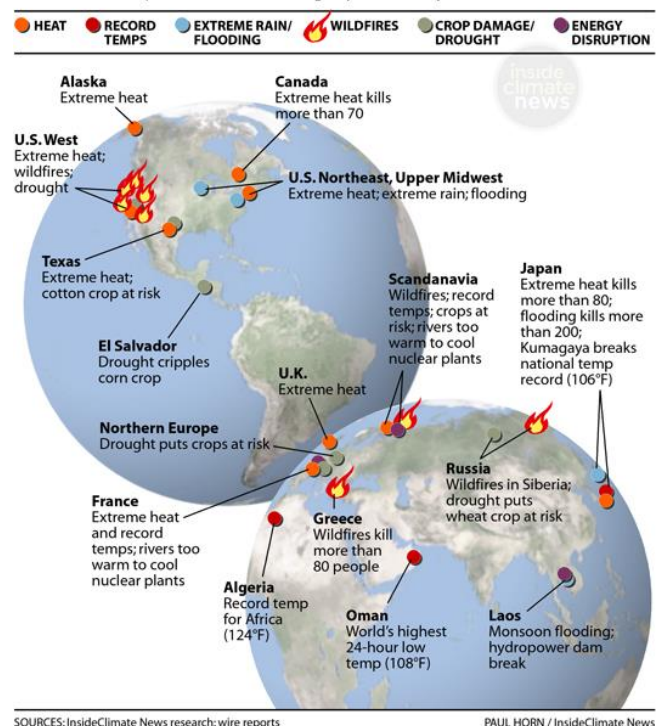
A day out at Stackpole



Pictured are Pembrokeshire FoE supporters pausing for a rest on the stunning Stackpole Head during their recent walk. Having set off from the fascinating Stackpole Walled Gardens, the group meandered through fields and woodland to the golden sands of Barafundle Beach, where some rested while others swam. Refreshed, they continued along the majestic clifftop coast path to Broad Haven Beach, where the warm sea again proved irresistible, before returning inland along the Bosherton Lily Ponds for welcome refreshments at the garden's Mencap cafe. This was an invigorating walk amongst some of the most inspiring scenery one could find anywhere.

Summer of Extremes

Record heat, flooding and wildfires have put lives and infrastructure at risk in countries across the Northern Hemisphere, and it isn't even August yet. These are just some of the extremes.



SOURCES: InsideClimate News research; wire reports

PAUL HORN / InsideClimate News

Earth's global warming fever spiked to deadly new highs across the Northern Hemisphere this summer, and we're feeling the results—extreme heat is now blamed for hundreds of deaths, droughts threaten

food supplies, wildfires have raced through neighborhoods in the western United States, Greece and as far north as the Arctic Circle.

At sea, record and near-record warm oceans have sent soggy masses of air surging landward, fueling extreme rainfall and flooding in Japan and the eastern U.S. In Europe, the Baltic Sea is so warm that potentially toxic blue-green algae is spreading across its surface.

There shouldn't be any doubt that some of the deadliest of this summer's disasters—including flooding in Japan and wildfires in Greece—are fueled by weather extremes linked to global warming, said Corinne Le Quéré, director of the Tyndall Centre for Climate Change Research at the University of East Anglia. "We know very well that global warming is making heat waves longer, hotter and more frequent," she said. insideclimatenews.org/news/

The energy used in our digital consumption is set to have a bigger impact on global warming than the entire aviation industry

While we may be dismayed at the governments lack of concern for climate change, data centres are set to soon have a bigger carbon footprint than the entire aviation industry. About 70% of electronic data goes through a vast system of cables and cooling systems in Loudoun in Virginia USA. According to Greenpeace, only 1% of the company's supplying electricity comes from credibly renewable sources: 2% originates in hydroelectric plants, and the rest comes from coal, gas and nuclear power. A controversial, proposed pipeline will carry fracked gas to its power plants.

A study in Japan that suggests that by 2030, the power requirements of digital services will outstrip the nation's entire current generation capacity. Greenpeace is unable to obtain any figures for China's consumption. "In response to vast increases in data storage and computational capacity in the last decade, the amount of energy used by data centres has doubled every four years, and is expected to triple in the next 10 years." *Our phones and gadgets are now endangering the planet, John Harris* <https://www.theguardian.com/commentisfree/2018/jul/17/internet-climate-carbon-footprint-data-centres>

Young FoE Europe in Pembrokeshire



Every summer, four lucky volunteers are selected by Young FoE Europe to spend three months on an organic community-owned farm in South Wales: COCA (Caerhys Organic Community Agriculture). Volunteers get hands-on experience in working on a farm rooted at the heart of a local community, as well as involvement in planning and delivering work to make the local area GM- and pesticide-free. Gerald Miles, a prominent food activist, runs the farm with the help of his wife, his sons and their family. Roughly 50% of the working time is dedicated to agriculture, 40% to activism and 10% to communication for YFoEE, writing blogs like this! But work is the priority. <https://www.foeeurope.org/yfoee/agri-activism-volunteering>

The annual COCA Festival with camping, music, food stalls and talks on permaculture GM campaigns etc. will be held at Caerhys Farm on 10-12th August.



To book: <https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/2018-national-gathering-friends-of-the-earth-cymru-tickets-47208962277>

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