



**Forested Wetlands surrounding a wood-pelleting facility in Ahoskie North Carolina.**

Conversions of large coal-burning power plants to wood -firing in Europe have resulted in the explosive growth of wood pellet exports from North America, most of which originate in the forests of the southern United States, designated by the World Wildlife Fund as critical/endangered, because of their high biodiversity. Some trees that are more than 100 years old are being turned into pellets. These swamp forests have been described as “some of the most biologically important habitats in North America” and play a vital role in the local ecosystem, providing habitat for black bears, waterfowl and reptiles, as well as providing flood protection for nearby communities and maintaining water quality. Less than one percent of the forests surrounding the Ahoskie pellet mill are protected from logging activities.

<https://www.dogwoodalliance.org>, <https://www.foe.co.uk/sites/default/files/downloads/felled-fuel-46611.pdf>

## **Pembrokeshire Council Planning Officers unanimously vote in favour of “Renewable” biomass power station at Trecwn**

Is Pembrokeshire County Council leading us into a new era of clean air and renewable energy? Alas no; the developer Valley Ltd, plan to install a 25MW power station to generate energy from biomass fuel, comprising a mix of virgin wood chip and /or pellets, with potentially a proportion of recycled / waste wood chip. The source of fuel is not determined but it is likely that initially the majority of the fuel would be delivered by ship and stored at Pembroke Dock, then transported to the site at Trecwn, the old military base near Fishguard by road.

Valley Ltd. estimate that there will be 53 HGV/106 two way journeys a day (one with an empty truck). As most of the fuel would be imported via Pembroke Dock, it would be more environmentally acceptable to site the electricity generating plant closer to the town and avoid these journeys and to enable the waste heat to be used in existing industrial facilities.

The company admits that the power station will only be 26% efficient, 74% of the energy in the fuel will be wasted. This will not help to cut carbon dioxide emissions; it's more like fiddling while Rome burns.

The net carbon benefit of biomass electricity generating stations is questionable as government guidelines do not include direct emissions from the stack, assuming that the process is carbon neutral. One tonne of dry wood burnt in a power station emits 1.8 tons of CO<sub>2</sub> into the atmosphere. Studies show that burning trees can result in higher greenhouse gas emissions than burning coal.

Last year, 60 eminent US scientists wrote a letter to the UK

Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change warning him that, “burning trees to produce electricity actually increases carbon emissions compared with fossil fuels for many decades and contributes to other air pollution problems”.

As well as releasing greenhouse gas emissions, burning wood produces other pollutants, including particulates, nitrogen oxides, and polyaromatic hydrocarbons (PAHs), which pose a threat to human health and ecosystems. It is likely to exacerbate the problems for people with asthma and breathing difficulties – as well as increasing the risks of heart disease and stroke. The problems are even worse when waste wood is used as it may contain chemicals including dioxins, arsenic, lead and mercury. Burning waste wood also diverts it from recycling by the wood panel industry.

The developers state that there is the possibility of rebuilding the old railway line running to Fishguard to transport the wood. They may be able to attract more industry to this area to make use of the waste heat produced, so making Combined Heat and Power which is much more efficient could be possible in the future. Local farmers could grow biomass crops to supply the power station in the future, but for now they would be importing wood pellets from virgin forests in the States Canada or Latvia.

The government classes biomass fuel (i.e. wood, energy crops and farming and forestry waste) as a renewable and supports its use through the Renewables Obligation, which provides financial subsidies for burning wood. FoE is calling for the government's ambitions for bio energy to be scaled down and capped at a level that ensures supplies can be sourced sustainably and domestically.

<https://www.foe.co.uk/sites/default/files/downloads/felled-fuel-46611.pdf>



## TIR / LAND

A Celebration of Pembrokeshire  
Dathliad o Sir Benfro

Exhibition of Artwork by I.R. Daniel & Poetry  
by J. Daniel

Arddangosfa o waith celf gan I.R. Daniel  
a barddoniaeth gan J. Daniel

**5 March / Mawrth – 30 May / Mai 2015**  
**at Tower Gallery, Oriel y Parc, St. Davids**

Digital prints at £20 each will be available for sale  
Janet and Daniel Rhys are raising money for Pembs.  
FoE through sales at their exhibition

Contact / Cysylltwch:-janetdaniel125@hotmail.com

### OUR LAND

Frack Frack  
Smack Smack  
Grey Band  
Shale Sand  
Gas Shouts  
Blow Out!  
Cut Deep  
We Weep  
Frack Frack  
Crack Crack  
Land Spoil  
Turmoil  
Frack Frack  
Whack Whack  
Speed Speed  
Greed Greed  
Drill Drill  
Kill Kill  
Frack Frack?  
Hold Back!

Gillian Clarke, the National Poet of Wales, spoke and read some of her poems to a packed and enthusiastic audience at the Pembrokeshire Women's Festival at the Picton Centre, Haverfordwest on March 14<sup>th</sup>. Environmental themes appear in many of the poems. This is a poem she wrote in April 2010 when a volcanic eruption in Iceland grounded aeroplanes.

### **Blue Sky Thinking**

*Let's do this again, ground planes for a while  
and leave the runaways to the racing hare,  
the evening sky to Venus and a moon  
so new it's hardly there.*

*Miss the deal, the meeting, the wedding in Brazil.  
Leave the shadowless Atlantic to the whale,  
its song the only sound sounding the deep  
except the ocean swaying on its stem.*

*Let swarms of jets at quiet airports sleep.  
The sky's not been this clean since I was born.  
Nothing's overhead but pure blue silence  
and skylarks spiralling into infinite space,*

*a pair of red kites flaunting in the air.  
No mark, no plane-trail, jet-growl anywhere.*

### **Renewable Energy.**

*Is not cliMate changing.  
New sustaInable Jobs.  
Helps import Less fossil fuel.  
No wars need Fighting.  
Not a terrOrist target.  
Not detRimental to health.  
An Industrial Decline reviver.*

*A Welsh Natural Harbour base optimal.  
No transportAtion problems.  
A sure-fire Vote winner.  
A secure Energy supply.  
Free at the poiNt of collection.*

*The oil price Waterloo.  
Polar BeArs love it!  
The green IndusTrial Revolution starts here.  
Environmentally safe Energy supply.  
A ChancelloR's darling.  
Not Global Warming.  
Sea level Arrestor.  
Will give (Pembs) Yeoman service.*

*By DS. Robinson*



## Tidal Lagoons

The UK Government announced, in the recent budget, further support for the Swansea Bay tidal lagoon proposal. The lagoon, if constructed, would generate enough electricity for 155,000 homes for around 120 years. FoE Cymru stood alone for many years in promoting this technology to harness the hydro power in the Severn Estuary while others, including Jonathan Porritt and George Monbiot, supported the discredited Severn Barrage or other types of barrage. The fact that tidal lagoons are now the favoured option is testament to the quality of Friends of the Earth's research. An example of this can be found in the briefing paper that FoE Cymru produced in 2007.

[http://www.foe.co.uk/sites/default/files/downloads/the\\_severn\\_barrage.pdf](http://www.foe.co.uk/sites/default/files/downloads/the_severn_barrage.pdf)

## The reasons an Electrical Vehicle driver has a broad "EV Smile" are:

- Not having to spend 4 hours a year at petrol stations
- Saving £1000 per annum on fuel
- Environmental necessity of zero emissions in towns
- Regenerative braking
- Not wasting fuel in a traffic Jam/Traffic lights
- No road TAX
- No engine stall
- Cheaper car insurance
- £5000 rebate off the purchase price
- Recharge at home on a reduced tariff
- Drive into the future now

Smooth, silent acceleration  
Remember a Solar Spill = A Nice Day

Electric cars could cut the UK's oil imports by 40%, reduce drivers' fuel bills by £13bn and spark a 47% drop in carbon emissions by 2030, if deployed on a large scale, according to a new study. The paper, commissioned by the European Climate Foundation, said that air pollutants such as nitrogen oxide and particulates would be all but eliminated by mid-century, with knock-on health benefits from reduced respiratory diseases valued at over £1bn.

For those of us who can't afford an EV; thanks to a £25,000 grant from the Big Lottery Fund's Village SOS programme, Cilgwyn Community Group in North Pembro. bought a brand new electric vehicle in 2013 to form the basis of a car sharing club in the area. Since the launch they've expanded their fleet and a similar project has been set up by the St Davids Eco City Group

## Question them in Haverfordwest!

**UK Elections 2015  
Meet the Candidates  
for Preseli Pembrokeshire**

**Picton Centre, Haverfordwest**

**Wed 8 April 6.30pm**

FSB – Federation of Small Business  
& 38 degrees campaigns  
i: vicky@ecocymru.org  
01239 820971

## National Trust and Wind Energy

It was disappointing to read in the Western Telegraph in January that the National Trust had opposed the proposal for wind turbines close to the polluting and landscape-impacting Valero oil refinery near Pembroke. Unfortunately, this was not a great surprise as the Trust had also opposed the Atlantic Array offshore wind farm in the Bristol Channel. While this supposed environmental organisation opposes wind energy in Pembrokeshire, it is noticeable that it failed to oppose the environmentally damaging Pembroke power station, which kills millions of fish a month and wastes energy equivalent to 40% of Wales' electricity demand while it pumps out almost 6,000,000 t of carbon dioxide into the atmosphere each year. The electricity from the power station is exported from the county along twin lines of power cables and pylons that straddle across south Pembrokeshire causing a far more damaging scar on the areas landscape than any wind farms.

**SPAN Big Plant Sale in Narberth is coming soon,  
please save some plants and seedlings for our stall.**



**Contact Eleanor on : 07768228584**

## Basecamp June 12-14<sup>th</sup> June.

FOE is returning to Derbyshire's stunning Hope Valley. Castleton lies at the western edge of the valley in some of the most beautiful scenery the UK has to offer - but still only a 25 minute train ride from Sheffield  
<http://www.foe.co.uk/page/basecamp-2015-0>

## Shipping our waste to Sweden

Pembrokeshire and Ceredigion County Councils have struck a new deal to process and export residual waste that cannot be recycled to Sweden. It will be used in a Combined Heat and Power station to produce electricity for local Swedish households. Sweden's decision to go down the route of incinerating waste means that there is a commitment to keep burning waste even though none is available locally.

Under the contract, any other council can buy waste disposal services from one of seven suppliers. Pembrokeshire County Council has already had interest from a number of other authorities about joining.

What do you imagine people will think of our decision makers when they learn, see, smell, hear and get held up in traffic jams on the A477 that have Refuse Trucks carrying Residual Waste from almost all other Councils in Wales to the West end of Pembroke Dock; where it will be shredded, baled and wrapped prior to being exported to Sweden. Then to add insult to injury, at the East end of Pembroke Dock, there is now a planning application for a "Refinery Oily Sludge & Waste Pyrolysis Incinerator" 13/0818/PA that has been deferred six times until it comes up again at the April 2015 Planning Committee.

## Recommended reading: Tony Juniper 'What Nature does for Britain' 2015, Profile Books

This is the sequel to Juniper's book 'What has Nature ever done for us?' drawing on the ecosystems approach he developed there and applying it to Britain. He shows how we are part of and depend on the functioning of the ecosystems around us, whether this is to obtain drinking water, prevent flooding, grow food, produce energy and try to prevent chaotic climate change. Not surprisingly the first chapter focuses on the role of soil.

This book is very well written, drawing on an extensive range of sources. It sums up the newest thinking and evidence in clear language and shows a way forward describing many new and pioneering projects. Each chapter ends with manifesto points which Juniper urges politicians to adopt. In tune with the ecosystems approach all of these points are aimed at serving several purposes at once. For example, he argues that all farm payments should be optimised to achieve multiple benefits in relation to soil structure, flood-risk reduction, wildlife conservation, improved water quality, recreation and carbon capture.

It is worth stressing that Juniper's approach is not utilitarian in the sense of mastering nature, but shows that ecosystems restored to their natural functions are best for us humans as well. The book is worthwhile reading outlining an ambitious and positive environmental agenda in this election year.

### Pembrokeshire FoE Contact Info.

Post: E.Clegg, Pant y Maen, Llangolman, Clunderwen Pembs. SA66 7XJ

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

[/www.facebook.com .Pembrokeshire Friends Of The Earth.](https://www.facebook.com/Pembrokeshire-Friends-Of-The-Earth)

Telephone: 07768228584

## Community Energy Event with Alan Simpson

Alan Simpson ex Labour MP and FOE Campaigner was invited by The Pembrokeshire Environmental Network to talk to Pembrokeshire County Councillors and encourage them to support community based renewable energy projects.

Alan has written a paper "Germany at the Forefront". Germany had made radical changes to its energy economy over the last decade. The bedrock of this has been a huge push into renewables, which has seen a massive 40GW increase in installed capacity. In 2000, Germany produced 6.4% of its power from renewables. In 2011, this was 20.1% . At the same time Germany has managed to reduce energy consumption by 7.3%, whilst increasing the volume of its exports by 40%. This is only the beginning. German industries such as Bosch and Siemens are at the forefront of this energy revolution and the government has pushed this ahead with schemes such as Feed in Tariffs .

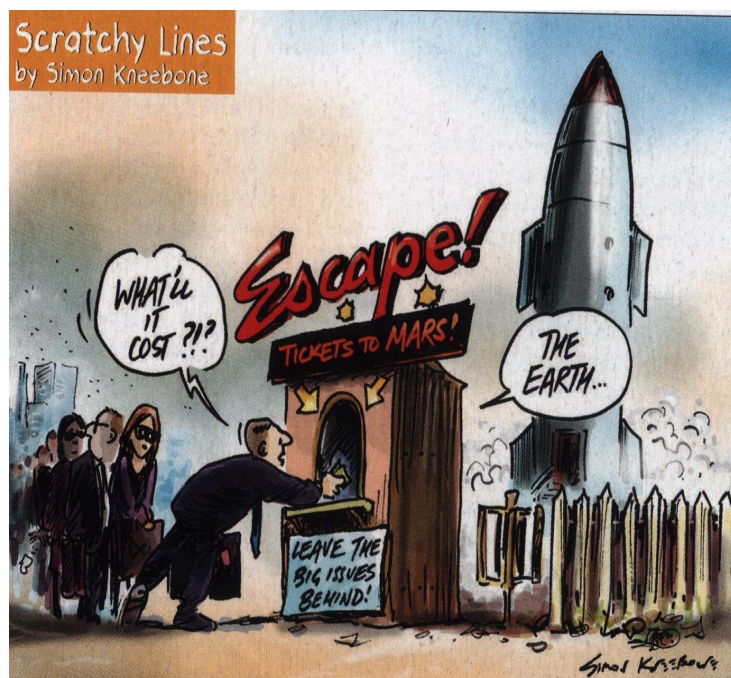
German utility companies no longer control energy supply unlike in the UK. In the UK producers of renewables have no legal right to to use their own electricity and according to Alan Simpson this has resulted in a deeply corrupt energy market with suppliers determining the price.

Alan Simpson will be the key speaker at the FoE Cymru National Gathering at Hebron Hall, Dinas Powys, Vale of Glamorgan

(<http://www.hebronhall.org/> ) on the weekend

22<sup>nd</sup> – 24<sup>th</sup> May <http://www.foecymru.co.uk>

Price for the whole weekend only £45 including all meals and accommodation



NEW INTERNATIONALIST April 2015

# **Pembrokeshire Friends of the Earth**

## **Cyfeillion y Ddaear Sir Benfro**



**Newsletter April 2015**

### **Any Green Questions**

#### **Carmarthenshire and Pembrokeshire Friends of the Earth**

Invite you to

**Come and question your**

**Carmarthen West and South Pembrokeshire prospective parliamentary candidates on their policies for the environment**

Simon Hart Conservative

Delyth Evans Labour

Elwyn Williams Plaid Cymru

Selwyn Runnett Lib Dem

Gary Tapley Green Party

John Atkinson UKIP

**Tuesday 14th April 7.30pm**

**Bloomfield House Community Centre,  
Narberth**

**Please email your written questions to  
[rccadbury@btinternet.com](mailto:rccadbury@btinternet.com)  
or bring them on the night.**

Refreshments available from 7pm



**CARBON FOOTPRINTS**

#### **Please declare Pembrokeshire as a frack free Local Authority**

By declaring Pembrokeshire free from fracking we can set a precedent for other local authorities by showing that we are making responsible and positive changes in our community. Fracking has been linked to water contamination, air pollution, earth tremors, health problems, decreasing house prices, climate change as well as hundreds of more lorry movements around fracking sites – and crucially, isn't likely to bring down energy prices, nor create sustainable jobs. The days of private companies destroying our communities to make a fast buck should belong to the past. Fracking is deeply unpopular and keeps us locked in to more fossil fuel use at exactly the time we need to be pursuing clean energy sources such as the sun, wind and waves which provide long term sustainable quality jobs for our communities as well as improving the environment for everyone.

<https://www.change.org/p/councillor-james-adams-please-declare-pembrokeshire-as-a-frack-free-local-authority>

