



Friends of the Earth Pembrokeshire Cyfeillion y ddaear Sir Benfro

Newsletter January 2026

AGM and core group – we need your help!

Our AGM is coming up, and this is a call for anyone who would like to get involved to come forward. We really do need more support, and energy. Do get in touch if you'd like a chat before the AGM about the work of the core group.



Friends of the Earth Pembrokeshire
Cyfeillion y ddaear Sir Benfro

Thursday 29th January
Seminar Room, Bloomfield Centre, Narberth
6pm AGM // 6:30pm Film // 8pm Talk



Damon Gameau takes eight kids on the ultimate school excursion: a road trip across Europe to challenge powerful leaders and find solutions to our greatest ecological challenges.

The film will be followed by a talk from Simeon Rose, Creative Director of Faith in Nature and co-founder of Nature on the board. How might business change if Nature had a Voice and a Vote?

2026 Senedd elections 7 May

FoE Cymru are calling on the next Welsh Government to play its part in global efforts to slash emissions and protect communities and nature in Wales and the rest of the world from extreme weather and climate change. We want our political leaders to focus on cheap, clean energy and on ensuring everyone has a

warm home, fair and affordable travel and can breathe clean air.

It's also time to get tough on pollution that's harming us and our wildlife - and make polluters pay. We must double down on cleaning up our air, rivers and seas and land, so we can all live healthily, safely and sustainably in a globally responsible Wales.

Read the full election asks here:

<https://foe.cymru/our-2026-senedd-election-asks>

Locally, we are planning an election hustings, so please get in touch if you want to get involved!

More information on the changes to how the Senedd elections 2026 will work:

About the new voting method:

<https://senedd.wales/senedd-now/senedd-blog/senedd-election-2026-what-is-the-d-hondt-formula-and-how-does-it-work/>

About the constituencies and candidates (list published 9 April):

<https://www.electoralcommission.org.uk/voting-and-elections/how-elections-work/types-elections/senedd-cymru>

Our visit to Pen Y Cymoedd Wind Farm

A small group of our Pembrokeshire Friends of the Earth group visited Pen y Cymoedd Wind Farm on the 26 September 2025. We wanted to find out about the peat restoration work that is going on at the wind farm, and also more generally learn about the site.

The wind farm has 76 wind turbines and at peak output can generate up to 228 MW - enough electricity to meet the domestic needs of 188,000 homes per annum. This is about 15% of the electricity demand from Wales' households. The site is at the

moment the largest and highest wind farm in both England and Wales.

The site is located on land managed by Natural Resources Wales within Rhondda Cynon Taf and Neath Port Talbot. Vattenfall, the company running the site, agreed to contribute £1.8m annually to a community fund and to invest £3m in a habitat restoration scheme. The community fund is independent and decides how to spend the money for the local area: <https://penycymoeddcic.cymru/home/>.

We were very lucky to get a guided tour from Gareth from NRW who leads the habitat work. He explained how some of the Sitka Spruce plantation has been felled, and how the work is progressing to restore peatland habitat. For this the drainage channels need to be blocked up, and the stumps need to be taken out, and inserted back into the ground upside down. The ground is then flattened to allow for moisture to build up, and after a few years the sphagnum mosses and other plants forming the peat start growing. We saw some sites that looked very promising already, and some where the work had just started. One challenge within the next few years will be to restrict the regrowth of spruce as well as the growth of other trees, and NRW is considering conservation grazing for this.

We also learned about the wind turbines, and how favourable the site is with sufficient wind, good connectivity and buy in from the local communities. The site started operating in 2017 and has planning permission to operate for 25 years. Hopefully it will be possible to extend the life span of the wind farm.

It was very impressive to walk amongst the turbines, and listen to the gentle hum of the wind against the blades. We felt the site to be very peaceful, and full of wildlife. We saw lots of buzzards and kestrels, as well as a number of peat plants and wild flowers. The site has numerous water voles.



Climate Day of Action linked to COP30

Rebecca went to the meet-up at Senedd on 19 November, where FoE Cymru managed to connect with the new Caerphilly SM Lindsay Whittle Jane Dodd, Elunid Morgan and Jenny Rathbone.

Bettina went to the protest in London at Whitehall, with a very disappointing turnout but interesting speakers.



National Emergency briefing

On 27th November, ten of the UK's leading experts briefed an invited audience of over 1,200 politicians and leaders from business, culture, faith, sport and the media with the latest implications for health, food, national security and the economy.

You can see all the expert presentations here:

<https://www.nebriefing.org/>

Chris Packham's 15-minute presentation opened the conference:

<https://youtu.be/QddkB1jK4sU?si=OLdHVOaNRT8HYhNw>

A good summary and a call to action is here:

<https://youtu.be/8sa7uh192r0?si=OUhNCnha5Ji446fV>

Please sign the call to action here:

<https://www.nebriefing.org/open-letter-keir>

A full documentary from this meeting is in production, and we plan to show this later this year, so watch out.

Rain, rain, rain.

A warming atmosphere contains more moisture which returns to earth as rain. According to the Met Office - Rainfall is increasing, especially in winter. The decade 2015–2024 was 10% wetter than 1961–1990. Winter 2023–24 was the wettest on record, contributing to 2024 being the 13th wettest year since 1836. Wales, including Pembrokeshire, tends to have more intense rainfall than England, with wetter winters becoming more common.

<https://www.rmets.org/metmatters/state-uk-climate-2024#:~:text=The%20decade%202015%E2%80%932024%20was,nine%20named%20storms%20in%202024.>

Pictured below is the River Taf bursting its banks in Llanfallteg in November. This used to be an occasional occurrence but has happened three times already this winter.



US largest emitter of climate changing gases by far:

https://www.carbonbrief.org/analysis-worlds-biggest-historic-polluter-the-us-is-pulling-out-of-un-climate-treaty/?utm_source=cbnewsletter&utm_medium=email&utm_term=2026-01-09&utm_campaign=Daily+Briefing+Guterres+US+regret+Venezuela+oil+guarantees+Australia+bushfires

Actions to Help Planet Earth.

Switch to a green electricity supplier if you have not already done so. Friends of the Earth recommends Good Energy or Ecotricity.

<https://friendsoftheearth.uk/take-action/switch-greener-companies>

Switching your current bank account is one of the most effective ways to align your finances with your values and fight climate change. Friends of the Earth recommends the following five: Triodos, The Cooperative, Nationwide Building Society, Cumberland Building Society and Starling Bank.

<https://good-with-money.com/2025/07/02/top-5-ethical-current-accounts/>

Flying is the most carbon intensive form of transport. It is also the cheapest because airline companies do not pay fuel tax. This epitomises more than anything the failure of climate change policy.

Flight Free UK provides lots of information on how to travel abroad and in the UK without stepping into a plane. Examples are, Cardiff to Crete by train and ferry, Rhondda to Ronda in Andalusia by train, and around Scotland by public transport.

<https://flightfree.co.uk/>

Contact your political representatives at all levels to express your concern about climate change, to ask them what they are doing, what they intend to do, to urge them to do more etc etc.

A recent *Guardian* article pointed out that a huge [89% majority of the world's people want stronger action to fight the climate crisis but are trapped in a self-fulfilling "spiral of silence" because they mistakenly believe they are in a minority. Making people aware that their pro-climate view is, in fact, by far the majority could unlock a social tipping point and help push leaders into the climate action so urgently needed.](#)

https://www.theguardian.com/environment/2026/jan/05/mps-underestimate-support-green-policies-study?CMP=Share_AndroidApp_Other

Pembrokeshire's MPs

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Members of the Senedd

Members of the Senedd can be contacted at:

Welsh Parliament, Cardiff Bay, Cardiff, CF99 1SN

Pembrokeshire's Members of the Senedd are:

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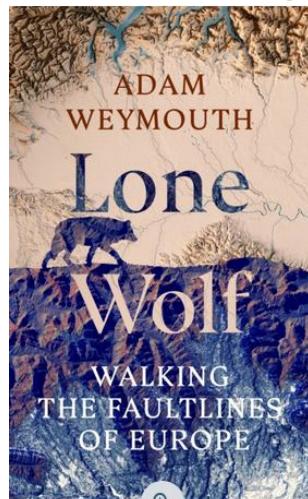
Telephone: 0300 200 7264

Pembrokeshire County Councillors

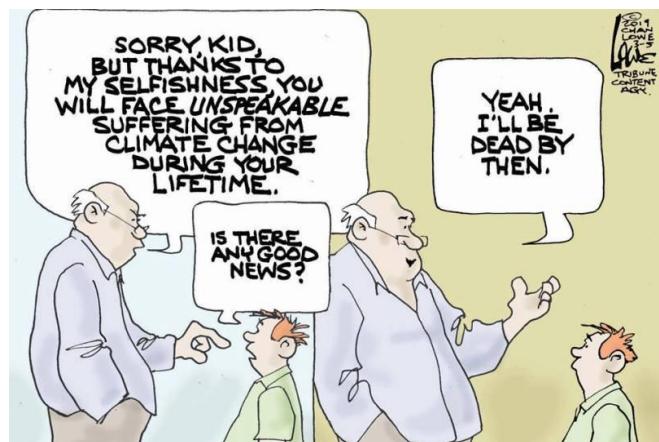
Details of your County Councillor can be found on this site:

<https://www.pembrokeshire.gov.uk/council>

Books worth reading



Fantastic book where the author walks the path of a wolf traversing about a thousand miles from Slovenia via Austria to Italy, crossing the Alps. Weymouth talks to locals, covers research on wolf behaviour, wolf extinction and revival, geopolitics, rewilding... A very good read, shortlisted for the Baillie Gifford prize for non-fiction.



Dates for your diary

Thursday 29 January from 6 pm: Our AGM and film, see poster!

Bloomfield Community Centre, Narberth

Second **Climate Fest** at Scolton Manor, weekend 4/5 July 2026

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