



Friends of the Earth Pembroke Cyfeillion y ddaear Sir Benfro

Newsletter September 2025

Newsletter and core group

First of all, apologies for the long pause in between newsletters. We will try and improve. If one of our members feels they would like to help with producing the newsletter, or generally join the core group, please do get in touch! We have been still active throughout the last few months, but it would be great to see more people involved.



Windfarm Visit

We are organising a visit to the Pen y Cymoedd windfarm near Port Talbot on **Friday 26th September**. This is the largest onshore wind farm in England and Wales. As well as hosting 76 turbines, the site has a habitat management programme and one of the largest peatland restoration programmes in Southern Britain. If interested, please phone Gordon James on 01437563670 or 07928888306 or email gordon.james@phonecoop.coop. Numbers are restricted on a first come first serve basis.

Climate Fest at Scolton Manor in July

Organised by one of our members, Lawrence Mathias, this was a great two day event showcasing a whole range of groups and individuals campaigning and

working in the environmental field. There was lots of art, music, and activities for small and adult children. We had a stand there as well. The festival is planned to happen again next year, and we hope we will have a better turnout by the public then.



Eleanor in from of our stand



Vince constructed this amazing lego tree

Our summer walk

Some of us went for a very enjoyable evening walk in late August, along the Cleddau, from Fortunes Frolic in Haverfordwest.



TfW Bus Reform Consultation

Sadly, bus reform doesn't appear to be delivering any significant changes to the provision of bus services in Pembrokeshire. The draft network proposed by TfW in this consultation looks very disappointing, with routes lost in the last few years (such as the 405 'Poppit Rocket' coastal bus) look set to remain absent in the future. Even in Carmarthenshire, changes appear to be limited to routes south and east of Carmarthen (towards Swansea/Llanelli).

Please have your say, there are two more local drop-in sessions left:

5 Sept from 9 am to 5 pm, Haverfordwest Riverside Shopping Centre

10 Sep from 12 noon to 7 pm, De Valence Pavillion Tenby

Or online: <https://haveyoursay.tfw.wales/bus-reform>

Deadline 23 September

Llangwm Literary Festival

Well done to everybody involved in organising the successful Llangwm Literary Festival. What a shame though that its main sponsor is Valero, a USA oil company and one of the highest single source CO2 emitters in the UK. As we look to writers to lead the way in exposing wrongs and pointing to a better way forward, we hope that the County's premier literary festival will be able to find less environmentally damaging sources of funding in the future.

Meeting Carole Cadwallader at the Llangwm Literary Festival

At the recent Llangwm Literary Festival, Gordon and I had the pleasure of meeting Carole Cadwallader, the investigative journalist who exposed the Cambridge Analytica scandal at the time of Brexit. In 2019, she gave a Ted Talk entitled Facebook's role in Brexit and the Threat to Democracy, which sent a shock wave across the internet and the political world. She said the subsequent legal action taken against her by Aaran Banks, the billionaire friend of Farage, ate up her time, energy and, as time went on, her sanity. Thankfully, The Guardian launched a fundraising appeal which raised £1 million to fund lawyers for her successful defence.

Her talk to a packed audience at Llangwm painted a frightening picture of how extreme right-wing billionaires are using social media to undermine democracy and propel autocrats like Trump into power. Worryingly, the NHS has done deals with far-right Silicon Valley billionaires and she was scathing in her criticism of the UK government's support for mainly USA sourced Artificial Intelligence. She advised us to skip the AI summary that now appears top of the list on Google searches as it is often inaccurate and is diverting funding from more reliable sources of information that appear below it. She regards the way that children are subjected to hateful influences on social media as a modern form of child abuse.

Suggestions were made about encouraging local journalism, accessing newspapers online free of charge through the local library Borrow Box or Pressreader systems, and lobbying politicians to raise awareness of this right-wing fake news threat and the need to counter it.

Also on the platform was Juliane Von Reppert-Bismarck who put aside an award winning career in journalism to found Lie Detectors where she advises governments, policy makers and the EU on countering

disinformation, polarisation and fake news. Organisations like Facebook are putting up one hell of a fight to oppose her efforts.

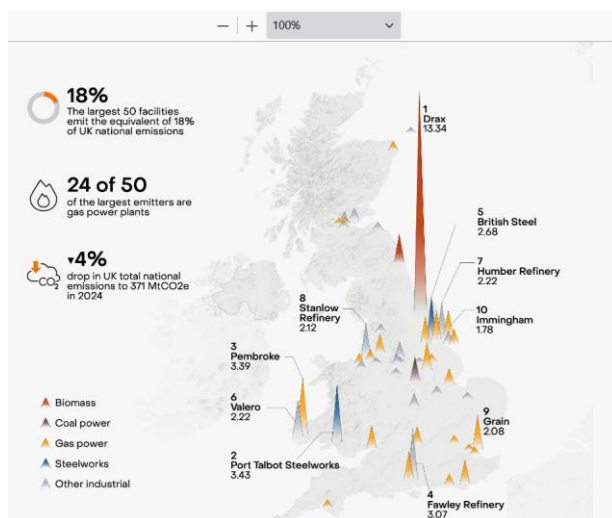
After the presentation, Gordon and I went to the hall for a bite to eat and soon began a conversation with a friendly, smiley, elderly woman sitting opposite us. It turned out that she was Carole Cadwallader's mother and we were later joined by Carole herself, where we gleaned more insights into her work. She gave some suggestions on how we can fight this "right-wing fake news ecosystem". She recommended using incognito mode when browsing or using WhatsApp, using Signal instead of WhatsApp, Bluesky instead of X and DuckDuckGo instead of Google, and using cash instead of bank cards.

We also learned that she had been brought up in the Cardiff area, (where her mother still lives) educated at Radyr comprehensive school and had been holidaying in Pembrokeshire for decades.

Karina

Pembrokeshire has two of the UK's top 10 carbon dioxide emitters.

The map below, based on information provided by the UK Emissions Trading Scheme, lists the U.K.'s top 10 CO2 emitters in 2024. As the Port Talbot steelworks has now closed, Pembroke power station becomes the second largest emitter followed, in fifth place, by the Valero oil refinery.



We have always argued that the waste heat from the Pembroke power station should have been used to revaporise the Liquefied Natural Gas being imported into Milford Haven. This would have increased the efficiency of the power station and reduced climate heating emissions from the Milford Haven waterway.

The Success of the 20 mph Speed Limit

Studies have shown that between July 2023 and July 2025, overall road speed in Wales reduced by 4.2 mph cutting casualties by 26.2%.

The cost of implementing the scheme was £39 million. As road accidents also carry a huge financial cost, it has been officially estimated that the 20 mph policy saved Wales £44 million in its first year.

Safer roads enable more people to cycle and walk and leave their cars at home.

Read more [here](#).

Extreme Weather

This picture of forest fires in Canada is just one example of how weather extremes caused by climate change is impacting on lives around the world.



Good News

ITV recently reported that a record number of solar panels, batteries and heat pumps have been installed in UK homes and buildings in the first six months of 2025. That is up 37% from the same period in 2024 and a third above the previous record high start to the year, in 2023.

Read more [here](#).

While the sale of new cars fell 5% in July, EV sales grew 9%, accounting for one fifth of the total. Tesla sales fell 60% on the back of a consumer backlash to Musk's political activism.

From [Carbon Brief 6-8-25](#) and Buisness Green.

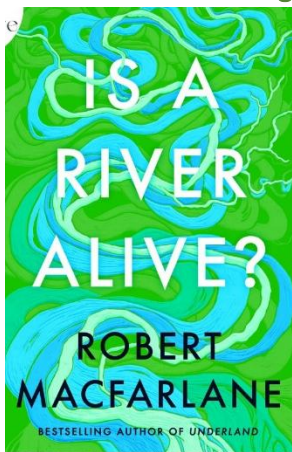
Reform UK's Climate Change Denial

In February, Richard Tice, the deputy leader of Reform UK, stated on [Sky News](#) that it is "absolute garbage" to say human activities are the main cause of climate change.

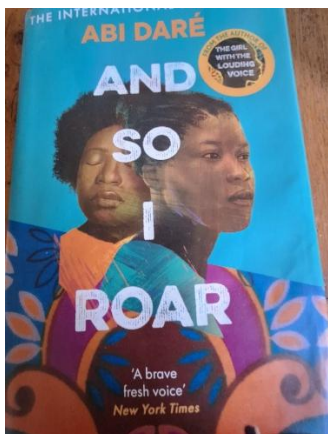
Also in February, Nigel Farage claimed, at the [Alliance for Responsible Citizenship Conference](#) (which was called the Glastonbury of climate change deniers), that it was "absolute nuts" to consider Carbon Dioxide to be a pollutant.

And, as the UK recently sweltered in a heatwave, [Reform UK MP Andrea Jenkyn](#) claimed that "climate change doesn't exist".

Books worth reading



As expected, this is another well written book from Robert Macfarlane, mingling his exploration of three major rivers with a survey of the current movement to give rights to nature. There are glimmers of hope as well as observations of severe pollution. Most impressive are the portraits of Robert's fellow travellers, campaigners and scientists fighting for the lives of rivers.



"And so I Roar" is the winner of the first Climate Fiction Award by African novelist, Abi Dare.

I found it to be a real page turner about the plight of women in some cultures in rural Nigeria who find themselves caught up in the realities of climate change and environmental degradation. It is a beautifully written novel of hope, love and power where women "roar" their stories to the world.

Karina Russell

Dates for your diary

Friends of the Earth Cymru West Wales get-together

Gathering for local action groups in west Wales on Saturday 27th September at 2pm in Carmarthen and we hope you're able to make it!

There's more information on the gathering and how to register on the Eventbrite [here](#).


Take action for the climate during COP30




Saturday 15th November is a Global Day of Action. Climate protests will be taking place around the world. In the UK, there will be events in major cities demanding climate justice. Check for updates here: <https://www.campaigncc.org/COP30>

Climate and environment events at the Haverhub





Philosophy in the Wild with Beth Mackintosh

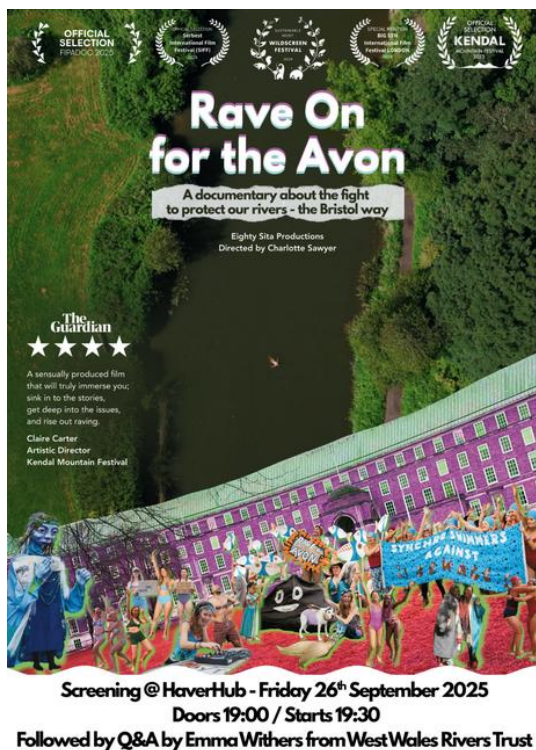


Friday 14th November 2025
Doors 19:00, Starts @ 19:30
HaverHub, 12 Quay St, Haverfordwest, SA61 1BG
Tickets: £5

Join Dr. Elizabeth Mackintosh (Beth), a philosopher and visiting research fellow at the University of Winchester, for a fascinating talk on how we think about the natural world.

Beth will take us on a journey through the history of philosophy, exploring how thinkers have traditionally viewed animals and nature. She'll then introduce us to the bold philosophers who dared to challenge the status quo, fundamentally changing our understanding of our place in the world.

Beth's work focuses on moral philosophy, and she recently led the UK's 'Team Wales' for the 'Philosophy in the Wild - Finding Hope in Mixed Communities' project, inspired by Mary Midgley's idea of the 'mixed community.' She is also a fellow at the Oxford Interfaith Forum.



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