

# Pembrokeshire Friends of the Earth Cyfeillion y Ddaear Sir Benfro Newsletter April 2017



## Egnedol – the story continues...

**At the end of March the Egnedol application entered another stage in the planning process.**

You will remember that Egnedol wants to build a large biomass plant and waste gasification plant in Blackbridge, Milford Haven. The company applied under the new DNS (Developments of National Significance) process that the Welsh Government has introduced. Pembrokeshire Friends of the Earth objected supported by Biofuelwatch UK, emphasising the health and safety concerns about the unproven and risky technology, the greenhouse gas emissions caused as well as concerns about burning waste.

At the end of March the planning inspector in charge of making a recommendation to the minister called a public forum and two hearings, where only invited parties could speak. The public forum was well attended and many residents voiced their concerns about air pollution and carbon impact, noise, impact of traffic and risk of explosion.

*Continued page 2*

**Our 30<sup>th</sup> birthday is coming up and you are invited to the party!**

**At Pentre Ifan Urdd Centre (near Pentre Ifan in the Preseli Hills) Saturday 8 July**  
**We will have a party in the evening with food, drink and a twmpath. Julie Murphy and Ceri Mathews will be playing and singing for us.**

We can stay overnight – there are 16 beds split into 3 separate rooms (1 room for 2 people, 1 room for 6 people and another for 8 people). All rooms contain bunk beds, and there are washing/ toilet facilities for both men and women. You can also camp next to the centre, or stay in a vehicle. Price for those staying overnight is £10, and we will book the beds on a first come basis.

We are planning to go for a walk on Sunday, morning.

Bookings please email Bettina  
[bettinab@dsl.pipex.com](mailto:bettinab@dsl.pipex.com)



**Egnedol** *continued from page 1.*

We added a summary of our concerns including a detailed outline of some of the risks that the technology poses as well as how the company has so far not considered the waste hierarchy principles set out in Welsh legislation. The planning inspector gave the last word to the Egnedol company director Steven Whitehouse, who replied to some concerns by detailing some changes that the company would make to the project. These however did raise fresh concerns but the public was not allowed to respond. One audience member described this as 'information on roller blades' making it very hard for the public to respond and devaluing the previous consultation exercise.

The following two hearings focused on information that the inspector felt was lacking. He invited representatives from NRW and the PCC to speak on mitigation of any impacts on species and habitats, and traffic and landscape issues. During the first hearing it became clear very quickly that Egnedol had not cooperated fully in the process leading up to submitting the planning application and that both NRW and PCC felt they could not assess the impact of the project as they did not have sufficient information. Eventually the inspector suggested using the 'stop clock' option and deferred the process by six months, enabling Egnedol to supply all the required information, co-operating with NRW and PCC.

We continue to have serious concerns about the project, and the hearings have not increased our confidence in Egnedol to be able to run a highly risky and innovative plant. We intend to give feedback to the inspector assuring that within the six months there will be another public hearing enabling the public to express concerns and hear the responses from Egnedol, as well as NRW and the PCC. The process should be open to scrutiny enabling the public to respond to any changes that Egnedol make in the design of their project. Currently there are many open questions such as what exactly are they planning to burn, how they are going to take

any building material, the biomass and waste to the site, the exact details of the access road as well as the plant itself. The Egnedol application is the first under the new DNS legislation and it is important that this is an open and democratic process, since it will set a precedent for other applications.

## **The first community owned tidal flow project in Wales.**

At Transition Bro Gwaun (TBG) Coastal Energy Event held on 22nd March Tom Latter explained about how they aim to realise the proposal. A single device or a small array of tidal turbines would be deployed off the coastline of Fishguard and Goodwick. TBG aims to mitigate the community's impact on Climate Change providing sustainable and secure energy, whilst also bringing financial benefits for both local investors and community initiatives.

Funding is secured from Pembrokeshire's Sustainable Development Fund and the LEADER programme. They also need to address the issue of grid network links or find local usage. They are looking at the production of hydrogen through electrolysis and fuel cell powered trains at Fishguard. Initial contacts have been made with train franchises who are looking to secure the train service across Wales for the next 15 years. The ferry also could be powered this way.

## **Nova Innovation on the Llyn Coast**

had a representative speaking at the event. Nova have secured an Agreement to lease an area of sea off the Llyn Coast to develop an array of flow turbines.

The Llyn is one of the areas of the lowest incomes in Britain. Five years ago, 70% of households at the far end of the Llyn were in fuel poverty. Nova hopes to produce enough energy to supply the areas requirements.

**Cadwyn Clwyd is a project exploring the feasibility of Smart energy grids,** including storage, direct supply, monitoring and controls for community and agriculture based renewables and projects which address fuel poverty.

Communities could benefit from pooling and using their own electricity generation rather than selling it at a loss. Matching local demand with energy generation, this might involve diverting energy into storage and water heaters.

**Surf and Turf gave presentation from Orkney** via Skype.

Orkney has an abundance of renewably produced electricity, but the current grid is designed to bring electricity to the islands rather than export it to the mainland.

To get round this they are turning to the production of hydrogen through electrolysis. The Hydrogen is stored and moved to where it is needed where it is reconverted into electricity to power harbour buildings, marina and auxiliary power for the ferries. Scotland is home to Europe's largest hydrogen fuelled bus fleet.

**Cardiff University has secured almost £1m of EU funds to reduce energy use and tackle fuel poverty by enhancing urban energy efficiency.**

The aim is to improve energy management and includes two sites in Wales, at Milford Haven in Pembrokeshire and the former steelworks site at Ebbw Vale, Blaenau Gwent.

Breakthroughs from the research will be applied across Europe in a bid to deliver more efficient use of energy in the built environment. The work will help alleviate the crucial problem of fuel poverty, in particular in Wales.

**Engaging people with climate change.**

The findings of the survey "European Perception of Climate Change Project" (UK., Germany, France and Norway only were included) conducted by Ipsos Mori, which is lead by Cardiff University have recently been published.

- The majority of people surveyed believe that the world's climate is changing and that it is at least partly caused by human activity
- Only minority percentages (24% in Germany, 30% in UK, 33% in France and 35% in Norway) believe that there is a strong scientific consensus (held by more than 80% of scientists) on climate change.
- Renewable energy (solar, offshore and onshore wind and hydropower) are the most popular energy sources in all countries, with majorities of 69% or over supporting the use of public money to subsidise renewable energy sources.

Carbon Brief spoke to Nick Pidgeon, a professor of environmental psychology at Cardiff University's school of psychology, who led the report's research. He said: "We were quite surprised about the result, but it is consistent with the other evidence from similar questions that have been asked in the US. It is thought this question may well be a gateway belief; that if you engage people with the question of climate change and can discuss with them the fact that the science really does agree – almost overwhelmingly – about the issue then they will be more concerned about climate change and be more prepared to take action to do something about it."

**Basecamp 2nd- 4th June**

Located in the stunning Peak District, Basecamp is a chance for people to celebrate last year's successes and plot the coming year's campaigns.

It's a 3-day festival of networking, learning, making friends and telling stories with change-makers from across the country.

<https://www.foe.co.uk/page/basecamp-2017>

## **More electricity was generated from wind in the UK than from coal last year, according to new research by Carbon Brief.**

The milestone is a first for the UK and reflects a decline in the generation of coal, which contributed just 9.2 per cent of UK electricity last year while 11.5 per cent came from wind. Coal output fell to its lowest level here since 1935.

Carbon Brief also estimate that CO2 emissions from UK power generation fell by around 20 per cent in 2016, as coal was largely replaced by lower-emissions gas.

Contributing factors for the shift away from coal and gas also include central and local power stations opting for renewables; decreased electricity demand; carbon taxes doubling in the UK in 2015 and an increase in energy imports from Denmark, Luxembourg, Malta and Belgium, and the impact of wholesale inflations on coal and gas. “The past 12 months have seen a year of firsts for the UK’s electricity system,” said a Carbon Brief spokesperson. “At the broadest level, the UK grid is changing as centralised power stations are joined by thousands of smaller sites, particularly renewables, as part of efforts to decarbonise electricity supplies.

In March 2016, coal generation fell to zero for the first time since public electricity supply started in 1882. Wind generated more electricity than coal in April 2016, the first month this had ever happened. Analysis by Carbon Brief analysis shows that solar also generated more electricity than coal in April, again, the first month this had ever happened. Solar went on to generate more power than coal between April to September 2016.

## **The Global Divestment Mobilisation campaign May 5th -13th May**

*“It’s not an investment if it’s destroying the planet” – Vandana Shiva*

If it’s wrong to wreck the climate, it’s wrong for our universities, pension funds, places of worship, cities, museums and banks to profit

from that wreckage. On purely economic grounds, though, we know that a greater proportion of the world’s oil, coal and gas reserves will need to be left un-extracted if we are to limit warming to 1.5 degrees - the target set in the COP21 Paris climate accord. This means that in the medium to long-term, oil, gas and coal reserves will not be worth their current share value.

This May, the Global Divestment Mobilisation campaign is coming together right across the globe to highlight the devastating climate impacts caused by continued support for the fossil fuel industry, and demand that institutions who invest in these industries do the right thing.

Pembrokeshire Friends of the Earth will be lobbying local election candidates to ask for their support for divestment of funds in the Dyfed Pension Fund, which has £64.8m of public money directly invested through workers’ pension funds in fossil fuel companies like BP and Shell, with a further projected £76.5m in indirect fossil fuel investments. The money could instead be invested into building new homes, improving public transport or supporting local clean renewable energy projects, all of which would help to boost the local economy. Reserves will need to be left un-extracted if we are to limit warming to 1.5 degrees - the target set in the COP21 Paris climate accord. This means that in the medium to long-term, oil, gas and coal reserves will not be worth their current share value.

## **After 140 years of negotiation, New Zealand’s parliament has approved a bill recognising the Whanganui river as having the same legal rights as a human being.**

“I am the river and the river is me,” reads an ancient Māori proverb, celebrated by the indigenous Whanganui iwi tribe of North Island, New Zealand. Since the 1870s, the tribe has attempted to convince the New Zealand government to recognise the Whanganui river – the third largest in the country – as a living entity with legal rights.

Formally approved on 15 March, the law is the first of its kind and will officially acknowledge the 290 km river as a “living whole” to be protected from harm and represented in court if necessary. Two legal ‘parents’ or guardians have been assigned to oversee the river’s health and wellbeing.

<https://www.positive.news/>

**FOE UK-wide Clean Air week of action (June 24 – 2 July). During the week, FOE hope that local groups and activists will create their own ‘Clean Air Zones’ in their towns to hammer the message home.**

One of our Pembrokeshire FOE members has been monitoring air quality (with a kit from FOE). The result from the lab. for the air monitoring tube put up at Haverfordwest SA61 2EJ was 13.9 µg/m<sup>3</sup> (micrograms per cubic metre) of Nitrogen Dioxide (NO<sub>2</sub>). This is below the level at which the annual legal limit is set

<https://act.foe.co.uk/ditchdiesel>

## Hedgehogs need Help



Researchers from the University of Leicester will be exploring how the UK’s changing climate could be affecting the survival of British

hedgehogs as part of a new project to protect endangered animal species.

The project, being funded by the People’s Trust for Endangered Species, will investigate whether warmer and wetter winters are impacting invertebrate food sources for hedgehogs, which would have a detrimental effect on their ability to survive. Hedgehog numbers are thought to have dropped by 30% in the last ten years alone, and experts from the Wildlife Trust have estimated there are fewer than one million individuals left in the whole of the UK.

Ginny and Russ Batt of Silent World near Haverfordwest, have taken on the running of Hogspital looking after the many sick and malnourished hedgehogs; they took in 192 last year.

To give a donation and view videos go to:-  
<http://www.wobblyhogs.moonfruit.com>

**Join us for the Great British Bee Count from 19 May to 30 June 2017** and discover the wonderful world of bees in our gardens, streets and green spaces this summer.

<https://act.foe.co.uk/act/join-great-british-bee-count>

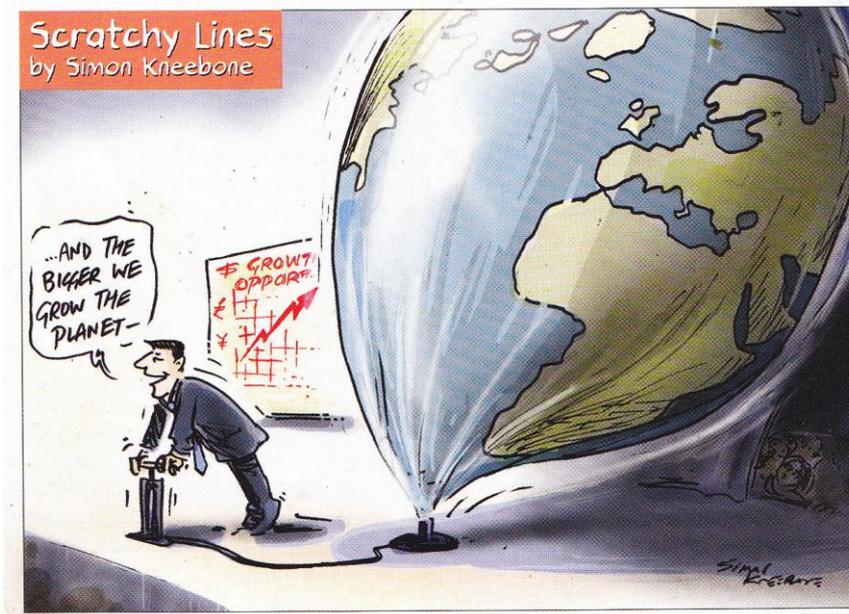
Bees are essential: we rely on them to pollinate many of the plants in our landscape, including most of our fruit and veg. But right now they’re in trouble. Since 1900, the UK has lost 20 species of bee, and a further 35 are considered under threat of extinction. So it’s vital that we better understand how they’re doing across the country. You can help by counting and recording all the bees you see this summer with our free app. Last year we spotted 383,759 bees. This year we’d love even more of you to join the buzz, and be part of the generation that helps save our bees.

**Sign up now to be the first to download the Great British Bee Count app on 19 May 2017.**

**THE BIG PLANT SALE is on Sat.  
29th April in Narberth**

Have you any lush healthy plants/seedlings in pots you wish to donate?

Tel. Jan Waite :- 01834 860071



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## Puffins at risk of extinction

More than a quarter of UK birds, including the puffin, nightingale and curlew, require urgent conservation efforts to ensure their survival, according to a new report on the state of the UK's birds.

Eight species are considered at risk of global extinction: the balearic shearwater, aquatic warbler, common pochard, long-tailed duck, velvet scoter, slavonian grebe, puffin and turtle dove.

"We've been putting these reports out since 1999 – I think it is one of the worst we've seen," said David Noble, one of the authors of the State of the UK's Birds study and principal ecologist for monitoring at the British Trust for Ornithology (BTO).

Noble said a variety of factors led to the classification of an increased number of species in danger, including land use change, such as afforestation and drainage of fields for farmland, and increased numbers of predators, such as foxes. He also pointed to the global impacts of climate change, which affect migratory birds.

The report is produced by the Royal Society for the Protection of Birds (RSPB), the BTO and the Wildfowl and Wetlands Trust, in partnership with the UK's statutory nature conservation bodies.

<https://www.theguardian.com/environment/2017/apr/11/more-than-a-quarter-of-uk-birds-face-extinction-risk-or-steep-decline-study>

### **Take action :-**

*Write to the Western Telegraph to express your concerns about the impact of climate change on puffins and of the effects this could have on the tourist Industry*

### **Pembrokeshire FOE contact details:**

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