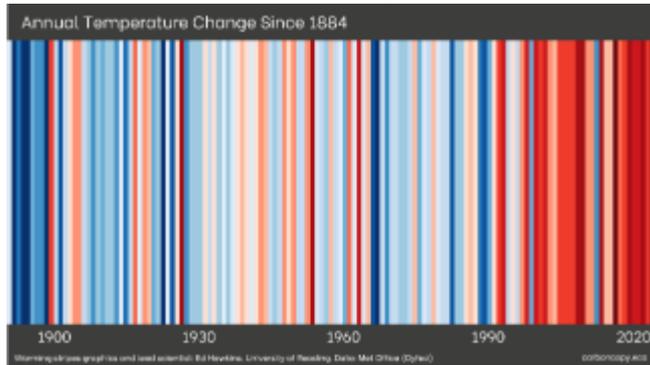




Friends of the Earth Pembrookeshire Cyfeillion y ddaear Sir Benfro

Newsletter June 2023

Pembrookeshire Climate Stripes



The Big One

Rebecca writes: On arrival in London for the first day of the big one I joined FoE members at an event coordinated by Global Justice Now, Friends of the Earth and War on Want. We gathered outside the Department for Business and Trade to urge the UK government to withdraw from a highly controversial and damaging international agreement called the Energy Charter Treaty (ECT).

A 100,000 strong petition was delivered to the department calling for the UK's exit. Campaigners also took part in a game of dodgeball, signifying the pressing need for countries to dodge the ECT.

Under the Energy Charter Treaty, companies can sue governments if nationally set climate policies threaten their profits. This means that fossil fuel firms, among others, can take governments to court in more than 40 countries, threatening the climate progress so urgently required while putting the interests of big business before people and planet. A number of European countries have already announced their intention to quit the treaty, including France, Denmark and The Netherlands, but the UK has yet to commit to pulling out.



Karina writes: These are a few photos I took on the climate change demo including the one of Caroline Lucas outside 55 Tufton Street, which hosts right leaning lobby groups and think tanks of climate change deniers. I think about 25+ Government Depts we're surrounded that day by various groups of climate justice protesters.



Plant Sale

On a warm sunny day we attended the Narberth plant sale for the first time since lock down. We gave away wild flowers including snowdrops, primrose and campion and Ellie's ever popular carnivorous plants also attracted visitors to the stall. We raised £50 in donations.

New Hospital Site

FoE Pembrokeshire has responded to the recent consultation on the site of the new West Wales Hospital. There are 3 proposed sites, 2 near Whitland and one near St Clears. We emphasised the importance of effective public transport links, including easy access to the train, for both staff and patients, the importance of renewable energy and electric car charging points. They claim the new hospital will be 30% more energy efficient and while we welcome this we would like to see more ambitious targets for this project.



The Kogi Project

At an event organised by Pembrokeshire friends of the Earth member Nono Latham we watched the first of two films made by TV producer Alan Ereira, enjoyed delicious soup and bread and heard about Múnekañ Masha ('let it be (re)born') which is a project to study the methods used by the Kogi to work in harmony with their environment enabling more successful regeneration of habitats.

The film, From the Heart of the World - the Elder Brothers' Warning', was first broadcast on the BBC

way back in December 1990. It revealed for the first time the lives of the indigenous peoples of the Sierra, (in particular the Kogi people), descendants of the Taironas who retreated into the remote landscape to escape the ruthless extremes of Spanish rule in South America in the 16th century and where they have maintained an isolated existence ever since. It is a glimpse into their lives and delivers their powerful warning of the destruction of the environment, which they were already observing back then.

The second film, Aluna, was made in 2009 and is available to watch by visiting the Tairona Trust website, <https://www.taironatrust.org/the-films>. In this film the elders, frustrated that the message of the 1990 film was not heard, are keen to show the world how environmental damage affects natural systems and the dangers of business as usual.

Munekán is a transdisciplinary collaborative, ecological restoration project, endorsed by the UNESCO BRIDGES Coalition. It is a joint venture of the Kogi Mamas (spiritual leaders) and non-indigenous scientists based in Swansea and Colombia. They are working to share their knowledge-systems at a specially-chosen location in the north face of the Sierra Nevada de Santa Marta in Colombia where the Mamas will work to revive damaged and desiccated ancestral land. It aims to influence land management methods by disseminating their techniques to a wider audience.

Stop the opencast coal mine at Ffos-y-fran

Over the past few days, supporters sent over 6,700 emails to Merthyr Tydfil's local Council staff, demanding they stop the illicit coal mining at the UK's largest opencast coal mine, Ffos-y-fran. The toll this has locally and on our climate crisis must be stopped, yet the local Council is refusing to. So we need to escalate [our message to the Welsh Government](#).

Use our mail template

Demand the Welsh Government steps in

The Welsh Government use its power (S182 of the T CPA 1990) to step in, forcing the coal mining company, Merthyr (South Wales) Ltd, to finally stop its illegal mining at Ffos-y-fran. This is a key test for the Welsh Government's green policies—a policy is only meaningful in as far as it's put into action. [Will you see this campaign through with us?](#)

Stop the diggers!

Impact of the Council's inaction so far

Approximately 270,000 tonnes of illicit coal*, emitting 840,000 tonnes of CO₂. That's equivalent to burning 359 MILLION litres of petrol—enough to fill up 3.5 MILLION Range Rovers. That's the global impact, but locally it's been 8 months more of noise, dust, and stress for local residents.



Photo: tonnes of coal being driven out of the coal mine morning of 11th May.

Until we win... Daniel, Anne, and the rest of the team at Coal Action Network x

*Based on extrapolation of the most recently available official Coal Authority statistics

Stop Glan Lash opencast coalmine

A few weeks ago, we had cause to celebrate. Coal mining at Ffos y Fran, the UK's largest opencast mine, is finally going to stop. This is such a massive win for the climate and a local community blighted by noise and air pollution. Like everything we do, it was only possible with your support, so thank you!

But the fight against opencast coal mining isn't over. Carmarthenshire County Council will soon decide whether to extend permission to mine coal at the Glan Lash opencast site. If approved, up to 95,000 tonnes more coal could be extracted from the mine. And burned, releasing unacceptable levels of greenhouse gases into the atmosphere. This is the last chance to have your say.

Merthyr Tydfil Council clearly stated that the application to mine coal at Ffos y Fran is against Wales climate, planning and coal policies, and is unacceptable in a climate and nature emergency. Now we need Carmarthenshire Council to follow suit, so let's work together to defeat this application and put a stop to opencast coal mining in Wales – for good.

Together, we can make coal part of our history, not our future.

Can you help to stop the extension of the Glan Lash opencast coal mine?

I'LL ADD MY VOICE

West Wales Climate Coalition & PCC collaborative meeting on 22nd May 2023

Update on new Sustainability Board:

The Sustainability Board provides advice and oversight regarding the Council's decision making with respect to climate change, decarbonisation, and biodiversity obligations etc. Part of its solution has been to work towards implementing the ground-breaking "doughnut economics" model by Economist Kate Raworth who argues we must find a safe and just space for humanity that allows us to continually meet the needs of our population while preserving and enhancing our planet's ability to regenerate. Pembrokeshire FoE suggested they could follow Cornwall County Council's successful introduction of this into their decision making.

Pembrokeshire County Council Climate/Ecological Emergency Website (and social media plans):

We have been pushing the council for some while to put information about the Climate emergency on their website, there is none at the moment. The excuse is lack of money and manpower.

Co-creation & Collaboration - discussion around the process of co-creation and collaboration with County residents-how this might be achieved collaboratively with the West Wales Climate Coalition/and or by other means.

WWCC suggested Citizens Assemblies as a way of getting local people involved in the decisions over the climate emergency. A BBC documentary on UK climate assembly, shows the impact on participants, the reality of the process:

<https://involve.org.uk/resources/blog/project-updates/watch-climate-assembly-uk-documentary-bbc-iplayer> .

Educating staff - progress in enhancing education on the Climate & Ecological Emergency (CEE) (to staff & elected officials).

Update on regional activity –, Milford Haven Waterway Future Energy Cluster, , Statkraft Trecwn, Hydrogen Transport Hubs, SW Wales Regional Energy Plan, WG Energy Service major renewables & EV roll out, fleet ULEV transition, 2023 roll out of Phase 2 rooftop solar with community energy company

Milford Haven is an ideal location to be a green hydrogen pioneer. A global 'gold rush' for green hydrogen has begun. Milford Haven Waterway has perhaps the best potential in the UK to become a global green hydrogen port/hub, using local Floating Offshore Wind. The target is to install 4GW of new floating offshore wind capacity by 2035, and 20GW of floating offshore wind capacity by 2045. Electricity grid and ports infrastructure upgrades are needed. Heat & Transport emissions are hardest to action. There is potential for green hydrogen to service industry (Haven Waterway/SWIC), transport, heat and power generation. Increasing volumes of floating offshore wind is well suited to production of green hydrogen – produce H2 when curtailed or low UK power demand.

Trecwn Green Energy Hub is being developed by Statkraft, Europe's largest generator of renewable energy, and is the company's first green hydrogen project to be announced in the UK: a 15MW green hydrogen electrolysis plant to generate three tonnes of green hydrogen a day. This is enough to run a single bus for over 40,000 miles, or the equivalent of making 350 journeys from Fishguard to Cardiff.

Solar PV for Car Parking Canopies and over landfill /Contaminated land - sites of 2 hectares and over is considered (2.6 Ha = approx 1 MW solar PV).

Update on biodiversity work:

There was also a presentation by Ant Rogers of the Pembrokeshire Nature Partnership

Transport Update

The Welsh Government have now released "The Future Of Road Investment In Wales", the final report of the Roads Review Panel appointed by Lee Waters MS on 15th September 2021. The cover page suggests the report was completed in August 2022 but it was not made public until 14th February 2023, when the Welsh Government published their response.

The Roads Review Panel's remit was to look at the Welsh Government's roads programme and

recommend how it could be updated to reflect the new decarbonisation policies, such as the target for 39% of journeys to be by sustainable modes by 2030. Their final report runs to well over 300 pages, including a 3-page summary on pages 4 to 6 which:

- states that 17 of the schemes reviewed are consistent with decarbonisation policy and 31 are not
- discusses three ways in which a road scheme can increase CO₂ emissions, namely:
 - embodied carbon (eg. the concrete etc. used in road construction)
 - increased traffic due to the faster and/or higher capacity new road
 - lower fuel efficiency due to increased speeds (eg. a 50mph road 'upgraded' to 70mph)
- sets out four conditions which new road schemes should meet:
 - minimise construction emissions
 - do not lead to higher vehicle speeds that increase emissions
 - do not increase road capacity for cars
 - do not adversely affect ecologically valuable sites
- sets out four justifications for building a new scheme which remain acceptable in the current crisis:
 - schemes designed to encourage modal shift to sustainable transport modes
 - reduce casualties on dangerous sections through small-scale changes
 - adapt to the impacts of climate change (such as where existing roads are susceptible to flooding or at risk due to sea-level rise)
 - providing access to development sites that will achieve high sustainable transport mode-share
- highlights some of the recommendations from the 51 made later in the report.

One of the key recommendations highlighted in the summary was that road scheme appraisals should include a traffic-modelling scenario consistent with the Welsh Government's policy of reducing car mileage per person by 10% by 2030.

The full report can be found at: <https://www.gov.wales/sites/default/files/publications/2023-02/the-future-road-investment-wales.pdf> and the Welsh Government's response at:

<https://www.gov.wales/welsh-government-response-roads-review-html>

Microplastics in Wales

Microplastics are polluting our land, our rivers and streams. Ultimately making their way into the oceans, where they damage marine life. Over a third of the plastic pollution in the seas and oceans is made up of microfibrils from the clothes we wear. So FoE is working with other organisations, individuals and small sustainable fashion businesses as part of the Sustainable Clothing and Textiles Cymru coalition to demand urgent action.

And now we need your help to push for a debate in the Senedd. **Add your name to tell Welsh Government: Wales needs a microplastics action plan. [I'LL SIGN THE PETITION](#)**

Microplastics are a big problem. Thinner than a human hair, they're almost invisible – but toxic for sea life. And there's increasing evidence that they're harming people too. They come from many different sources. That includes plastic bottles, vehicle tyres. And even paints. Welsh Government has a strong record of action on plastics and waste issues. Now it must also act on microplastics. This is the next stage of our sustainable fashion campaign. Back in February, FoE asked you to join in by writing to Welsh Government Education Minister Jeremy Miles – calling for every school in Wales to have a uniform swap-shop. And there's brilliant news. Jeremy Miles has recently announced guidance introducing swap-shops for second-hand school uniforms in every school in Wales.

Pengelli Guided Walk

The Wildlife Trust of South and West Wales are running a guided walk of the Pengelli Forest on **Thursday 15th June** from **6pm**. Hosted by the reserve manager Nathan, you'll find out about the largest block of ancient oak in West Wales and the Trust's appeal to protect this temperate rainforest. This is a 3 hour walk and is charged at £20, which will support the ongoing appeal to protect this precious landscape.

Link: [Discover Celtic Rainforests - Pengelli Forest Guided Walk | The Wildlife Trust of South and West Wales \(welshwildlife.org\)](#)

Bookings: [Discover Celtic Rainforests - Pengelli Forest Guided Walk Tickets, Thu 15 Jun 2023 at 18:00 | Eventbrite](#)



Register here: <https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/egnio-2023-swansea-registration-626933734677>

Happy Awr

Are you freelance, a remote worker, or self employed?

Do you miss socialising with work pals, the banter of an office, or the chance to run ideas past a team?

Happy Awr is a new monthly event to unwind after work on a Friday and connect with your community colleagues - with the next event taking place on Friday 2nd June at the bar at Mwldan. It's completely free, with a 20% discount at the bar. No forced networking - just a friendly crowd looking to connect.

More info here:

<https://www.facebook.com/happyawraberteifi>

What is a repair café?

Are you thinking of starting a repair café and wondering what is involved? We would like to invite you to an informal introduction to repair cafes and Repair Café Wales. Join us via Zoom on Tuesday 6th June at 7.30pm, or on Wednesday 7th June at 1.30pm. These relaxed sessions will each cover: • Repair Café Wales: who we are, what we do and what a repair café involves. • Videos and photographs to give you a sense of what happens at a repair cafe event. • An exploration of the various voluntary roles that make up a repair café team. • What to do if you would like to get involved and the support we offer. • FAQs and Questions from you To register for Tuesday 6th June at 7.30pm, please

<https://www.eventbrite.com/e/informal-introduction-to-repair-cafe-wales-6th-june-2023-tickets-633442663057?aff=ebdshpsearchautocomplete> To

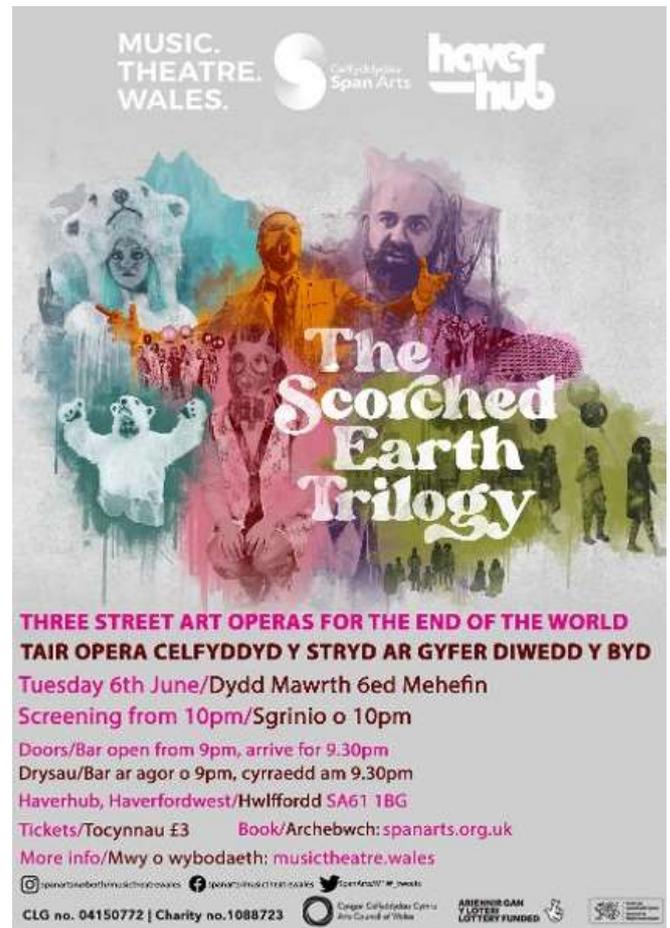
register for Wednesday 7th June at 1.30pm, please

<https://www.eventbrite.com/e/informal-introduction-to-repair-cafe-wales-7th-june-2023-tickets-634047201247> For more information, please email

leonie@repaircafewales.org Thank you.

Summer walk

Watch out for an email with details of our summer walk, planned for the first August weekend.



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