

Pembrokeshire Friends of the Earth

Cyfeillion y Ddaear Sir Benfro

Newsletter November 2013



South Hook Power Station Technology Welcomed But Concerns Remain.

The use of Combined Heat and Power (CHP) technology at the planned power station at the South Hook LNG terminal near Milford Haven has been welcomed by Pembrokeshire Friends of the Earth, but we remain concerned about possible noise and marine impacts and oppose the siting of the power station within the Pembrokeshire Coast National Park.

Pembrokeshire FoE has outlined its response in its submission to the National Infrastructure Planning registration process.

We believe that all new power stations should productively use the waste heat they produce in order to maximise energy efficiency, reduce emissions of carbon dioxide, and avoid the use of damaging water cooling systems.

We oppose the siting of this power station within the Pembrokeshire Coast National Park. National Park areas are meant to have particular regard for landscape and environmental protection. This regard is rigorously implemented in response to applications for wind turbines, many of which are turned down. The same principle should apply to fossil fuel applications. Although the power station would still have a noticeable visual impact sited outside of the National Park, we believe it is important that the basic principle of greater environmental and landscape protection within the National Park areas should be adhered to.

We are aware that many residents in the area of the proposed power station are already complaining about excessive noise from industrial and shipping activities. We believe that this problem should be addressed as soon as possible and that the proposed power station should not be allowed to add to the noise problem.

We are also very concerned that the Pembrokeshire Marine Special Area of Conservation has been adversely impacted by industrial and other activities in the Milford Haven waterway. It is imperative that the proposed power station at South Hook does not cause further harm to this important marine environment.

We support the proposal by Marloes and St Brides Community Council that the main CHP power station building design should be modified to incorporate a photovoltaic roof array which would operate as a Community Solar Farm.

Clean Power Target Missed by Narrow Margin

Thanks to all of you who have written to a **Baroness Tonge** in response to our last minute request. The vote for a clean power target was lost by a small margin - if just 8 more Peers had voted our way, the target would have been passed.

The failure of peers to back a decarbonisation target for 2030 represents a huge missed opportunity that will make the cost of the low carbon transition higher than it would otherwise have been, while ensuring many of the resulting financial and job opportunities will be snapped up by foreign companies and governments.

Never has there been such a broad coalition in support of clean power. From the investors, worth a trillion pounds, who wrote to the Chancellor to demand a clean power target, to the Aldersgate Group of businesses who wrote to every Peer; from trade bodies to engineers; from farmers to scientists. And of course all of our friends across the green movement and in NGOs.



Chasing Ice A film by Jeff Olowksy

The Queen's Hall Narberth 7.30pm
Sunday 24th November

Admission £4.50 Free Film on Sunday club members
Doors open 7pm for puddings, teas and coffees

In *Chasing Ice*, acclaimed photographer James Balog, deploys revolutionary time-lapse cameras to capture a multi-year record of the world's changing glaciers. His hauntingly beautiful videos compress years into seconds and capture ancient mountains of ice in motion as they disappear at a breathtaking rate.,

"This Oscar-shortlisted picture is starkly beautiful, alarming and important." The Times

Narberth Children's Festival

After many years the Children's festival has been revived. The theme was endangered species, so it fitted well with the Bee Cause.

Despite the rain and wind the festival was very well attended and our rather crowded gazebo didn't blow away.



We had a good time getting the children to make bees, bee hotels and seed bombs, while other children completed our bee quiz, hopefully learning lots of fascinating bee facts in the process. At 2.30 each day Eleanor and Esme put their acting skills to the test with a Bee Panto.

By the end we had hopefully persuaded a few more children and their parents to love and value our bees.

Groups Unite to Stop Import of Tar Sands to Europe

Last week, there was a government reshuffle, and the minister responsible for the UK's position on the EU Fuel Quality Directive changed.

Now the task lies with the Lib Dems' new Minister of State for Transport, Baroness Kramer. The change in personnel comes at a make-or-break-moment. Either the FQD will soon be implemented, sending a hugely important message that there is no place for dirty tar sands oil in Europe's fuel mix, or the whole process will collapse under the influence of strong-arm tactics from the Canadians and wavering commitment to genuine emissions reductions from Commissioners and EU member states.

Pembrokeshire FOE has signed a joint letter with UK tar sands Network to Baroness Kramer in support of FQD.

<http://keptarsandsoutofeuropa.org>

**Pembrokeshire
South East Energy Group present**

Fracking

**A talk by John Childs
Swansea Friends of the Earth**

**7.00pm Thursday 21st November 2013
at New Hedges Village Hall**

Consent for Turbines in Wales lagging behind

Wales is still lagging behind the other UK nations when the decisions are being made for onshore wind turbine planning applications. Consent rates for on onshore wind projects sit at 18% in Wales compared with 40% in England and 67% in Scotland.

Surveys have shown that the majority of the UK's population support wind energy. However, this is usually the silent majority, as supporters rarely make their views known to planning officers. This can change with your help.

Aberguan Community Turbine-ACT

Transition Bro Gwaun have set up a partnership with a local landowner to erect a single wind turbine capable of generating 600,000KWh per annum, equivalent to about 10% of Fishguard and Goodwick's consumption.

The group has received support from the Welsh Government's Ynni'r Fro programme, both for this wind turbine project and previously to investigate the potential for tidal generation off Strumble Head. Unfortunately, complex tide flows mean that the site is not viable with current technology.

The income from the sale of electricity and the Feed-in-Tariff payments will enable TBG to finance other low carbon projects within the community. The application will probably come before the planning committee in late November, **so there is still time for submissions.** - go to <http://planning.pembrokeshire.gov.uk/swiftlg/apas/run/wphmakerep.displayURL?ApnID=13/0415/PA>

We are hoping to raise as much as possible of the loan finance from individuals, so, if you know of anyone who would be interested, please contact

tom.latter@btinternet.com

Support Bwlfa Farm Wind Turbine

Following two years of environmental and technical studies, Seren Energy has submitted a planning application to erect a single wind turbine with Bwlfa Farm, which is situated around 1.5km south of Ton Pentre in Rhondda Cynon Taf.

You don't have to live in the area to support it.

Send an email to the following address:

PlanningServices@rctb.gov.uk

Include in the subject line of the email "Support for Bwlfa Wind Turbine Ref. 13/0960/FUL.

Every email helps

Cwm Arian Renewable Energy (CARE)

Following a site visit by Pembrokeshire Community Council the planning permission has been turned down for two community wind turbines at a site in Llafyrnach on the grounds they can be seen from the National Park. But then isn't every wind turbine in Pembrokeshire visible from the Preseli Hills on a clear day, not to mention the odd oil refinery? This rejection came in spite of the enormous potential benefits to the community and the hard work over the last two to three years by the group.

Eco Poetry Workshop

On Sunday 15th September we held a Poetry workshop at the Narberth Museum. It was a delightful way to spend a wet Sunday afternoon. Its theme was bees, and eco poet Susan Richardson soon had us enthusiastically scribbling away. For most of us it was our first attempts at writing verse.

Foe Cymru has been organising similar workshops led by Susan throughout Wales, culminating in a bee poetry evening in the Chapter House Cardiff on 25th October.

Here is some of our work:

sun drenched pollen laden
warm blossom summer heaven
sweet scented nectar loving
humming honey home.



wasp beheaded varroa infested
immune suppressed hive collapse
grieving blossoms shared losses
the queen is quiet now. C Lishman

Bumble bees buzzing busily,
picking nectar from the flowers.
Moth moving smoothly silently,
picking nectar from the flowers.
Peacock butterfly patchwork painted,
picking nectar from the flowers.
Wasp wandering weaving wicked,
picking nectar from the flowers
Summer sounds, a thousand thrusting throbbing bees,
picking nectar from the flowers.
Soundless summer, blossom waiting, fruit not forming,
nothing picking nectar from the flowers. Anon



This wonderful film about bees and their plight was shown at Theatr Mwldan in October. The film takes us on a journey following the stories of different bee keepers. It begins in the Alps with a bee keeper who is struggling to keep his European black bees. These bees despite being so well adapted to their environment are succumbing to the imported problems of varroa and foulbrood. Other stops on the journey include the industrial bee keepers of the US who transport their hives thousands of miles to pollinate crops; here it is all about the money. This is intensive bee keeping as you have never seen it before. Finally we meet the Texan who see hope in the invading Africanised bees. These bees may be hard for us to tame but may be they will endure? The images and photography are spectacular, the story fascinating, and the message powerfully told.

Poem printed with kind permission of the auther Danny Chiver's, eco performance poet who was not at the workshop.

Listen:

A gentle background hum becomes
Words, that tumble from a flower's tip
Into the air, seemingly careless as they bumble from there
To here
Into your ears.

This poem is brought to you by the bees. (Via me)
But even my own cycled flight to get here tonight
Was fuelled by food from a field whose yield relied
On a thousand furry bodies
Flying side to countryside.

This meal was brought to you by the bees.
Through a daily global dance, a romance
Where a billion willing partners drift and glide between the beds
They flex their exoskeletons and get it on
Black and yellow meld with blue and red
And this
Is how most of us are fed.

This civilisation is brought to you by the bees.
A human colony kept from collapse by perhaps
The only group of species that can be favourably compared
to their own knees.
And yet, we've somehow let them be
Half of what they used to be
With each new dawn, a quieter swarming.
This warning is brought to you by the bees.

We walk through fields of flowers standing silent,
unfulfilled.
Bright hosts of barren beauty
In their emptiness, a duty
That sticks to you like pollen, that can't easily be shed
Like a buzzing in your head, a restless drone
Coz if beeswax is on the wane that means we can't just
mind our own.

You can forget about the birds without the bees.
No more picnics in the meadow or beneath the apple trees
If they're swatted from our lives we'll all get stung
And so it's time to stop the run
On these hymenopterans
Before our life in clover's over, so the

Future we want will be shared by us and the bees.
Where pesticides are left aside and pollinators thrive
And every park and garden feeds a thousand furry lives
I want the whole of Britain to start breaking out in hives
And then you'll see
That our victory will be honey sweet
And what will be will be.



Pembs.FOE members pictured outside the central Hub at Lammas.

Our tour of Lammas on a hot sunny day in July was well attended. A big thanks to Jasmin's for her very interesting talk and tour of their site and to Melissa for her talk on her experiences of bee keeping at Lammas.

Pembrokeshire Friends of the Earth respond to the proposed Atlantic Array Offshore Wind Farm

We support the application made by Channel Energy Ltd for development consent to construct and operate the proposed Atlantic Array Offshore Wind Farm.

The development, which would have a capacity of up to 1200 MW producing enough electricity to meet the average electricity needs of up to 900,000 homes each year, is just the sort of large-scale renewable energy project that is needed to reduce climate-changing emissions, improve energy security, help the on-going development of the rapidly growing green economy in the UK, and make an important contribution towards enabling the UK government to meet its legal target of generating 15% of energy demand from renewable sources by 2020.

Last year, only 4% of UK energy demand was met by renewable sources indicating the significant challenge we face in reaching the target of 15% by 2020, and the importance of developing large windfarms such as the Atlantic Array.

We do not believe that landscape/seascape concerns are sufficient to jeopardise the development of this project. It would be 28 km from the nearest point on the Pembrokeshire coast (St Govan's Head), with the nearest point to land anywhere being Lundy Island at a distance of 14 km. With climate change continuing to be such a major threat, and with efforts at reducing climate-changing gases to date being so inadequate, we do not have the luxury of opposing such an important clean energy development so far from land.

The National Trust is slowing the growth of the UK's lowest cost form of renewable electricity generation by its almost blanket opposition to the development of turbines, onshore or offshore, within sight of its landholdings .

Japan's clean energy solution— Twelve miles out to sea from the severely damaged and leaking nuclear reactors at Fukushima, a giant floating wind turbine signals the start of Japan's most ambitious bet yet on clean energy.

What sets this project apart from other offshore wind farms is that they are floating on giant platforms anchored to the seabed. Japan lies on a continental shelf that quickly gives way to depths that make it unfeasible to build structures into the seabed. But floating wind farms could change the picture in a big way.

Harnessing wind in deeper waters off Japan could generate as much as 1,570 gigawatts of electricity, roughly eight times the current capacity of all of Japan's power companies combined, according to computer simulations based on historical weather data by researchers at Tokyo University, one of the project's main participants.

New Sustainable Diets Alliance



Eating Better a Fair Green Healthy Future

An alliance of organisations to help people move towards eating less meat and more food that is better for us and the planet, has been launched. FOE is a founding member and Hugh Fearnley-Whittingstall has joined over 31 other organisations supporting the alliance.

www.eating-better.org



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