



## NEWSLETTER

6<sup>th</sup> January 2014

### Diary Dates

**Sunday 12<sup>th</sup> January:** Barton Moss Mass Solidarity Day; assemble 1:30pm at the junction of Barton Moss Road/Liverpool Road, Barton, **Eccles** M30 7RL.

Called by 'Frack Free Greater Manchester'

More details at: <http://frackfreegtrmanchester.org.uk/upcoming-events/>

Or on Facebook at: <https://www.facebook.com/events/556115354472591/?ref=ts&fref=ts>

Barton Moss Liftshares: <https://www.facebook.com/pages/Barton-Moss-Liftshare/322201437919361>

**Saturday 18<sup>th</sup> January:** Public Meeting to discuss plans for Underground Coal Gasification in the Loughor Estuary with Algy Cluff, head of Cluff Natural Resources.

2:00pm to 5:00pm; The Memorial Hall, Parc y Minos Street, **Burry Port** SA16 OBN

Organised by Nia Griffiths, Labour MP for Llanelli – free entry – all welcome – get there early to secure a seat!

More details on Facebook at:

[https://www.facebook.com/events/577637352320161/?previousaction=join&ref\\_newsfeed\\_story\\_type=regular&source=1](https://www.facebook.com/events/577637352320161/?previousaction=join&ref_newsfeed_story_type=regular&source=1)

**Tuesday 21<sup>st</sup> January:** 'The Truth about Fracking', a film produced by Frack Free Somerset; 7:30pm to 9:30pm; The Club, Queen Victoria Rd, **Llanelli**, SA 15 2TL.

Organised by Frack Off Llanelli – free entry (collection will be taken).

More details on Facebook at: <https://www.facebook.com/events/494069760706494/>

**Saturday 15<sup>th</sup> February:** 'Frack-tion Training Day'; 10:00am to 6:00pm; Dyfatty Community Centre, Chapel Street, **Swansea** SA1 1NB.

A day of skill sharing, networking and information gathering to help us prepare for the year ahead.

Free training delivered by 'Seeds for Change' ([www.seedsforchange.org.uk](http://www.seedsforchange.org.uk)) - open to all (not just fracktivists) – lunch provided by Food Not Bombs (for a donation).

For more details and to confirm a place please e-mail: [safeenergywales@virginmedia.com](mailto:safeenergywales@virginmedia.com)

**Saturday 22nd February** - "The Vale Is Not For Shale" Concert in **Cowbridge** Town Hall.

Four local campaign groups are teaming up to put on a big music event in the heart of the Vale of Glamorgan.

Coastal Oil and Gas have planning permission for four test drilling sites in the Vale of Glamorgan and Rhondda Cynon Taf and they are planning to commence drilling in 2014.

This is one of a series of events to raise public awareness, build support for the protests when the drillers do come, and infuse the campaign with some positive, creative energy.

Lineup tbc but will include some notable names from the Welsh music scene. Check next month's newsletter for more details.

Contact Donal Whelan [donal@hafodmastering.co.uk](mailto:donal@hafodmastering.co.uk)

## Other News

**Good luck to those of you who are in court this week!**

**February:** Frack Free Somerset are organising a second Frack Free February – it's a big month of action, with loads of local events and just creates a lot of momentum for the year & helps new groups to start. You can get a flavour of what happened last year here:

<http://www.frackfreesomerset.org/frack-free-february/frack-free-february-overview/>

More details to follow.

**RCT Llantrisant:** the site for exploratory drilling is being monitored on a fortnightly basis, nothing to report thus far.

**N.E Wales Anti-Fracking Action Network** are expecting their current application to go before the committee today, so if a decision is made one way or the other, it will be big news for this area. Will have to wait and see...

## Ways you can help

**New Year Resolutions:** At a loss to know what resolutions to adopt for 2014? Here are a few suggestions for you!

**Visit or write to your MP** and object to government plans to exempt frackers from taking out public liability insurance to deal with any future pollution, as reported in 'The Guardian' (<http://www.theguardian.com/environment/2013/dec/11/taxpayers-fracking-pollution-companies>).

Ask your MP to put pressure on the government to accept a motion to amend the proposed legislation to make it compulsory for fracking companies to take out insurance. You might also ask if it is right that this legislation is being produced by The Treasury when Baroness Hogg, Senior Independent Director to HM Treasury is also a director of BG Group, a company involved in gas extraction across the globe!

**Visit or write to your Assembly Member** and draw their attention to Petition "P-04-422: Fracking" (<http://www.senedd.assemblywales.org/mgIssueHistoryHome.aspx?IId=4537>)

This petition was submitted by FoE Cymru and appears to have been "under consideration" since October **2012** (although the year may be a mistake on the Assembly website). Given that the UK Government is unwilling to protect Welsh communities by insisting that the frackers have the necessary insurance (see above), we need the Welsh Government to step up to the plate.

The Welsh Government does not have the power to stop fracking in Wales, but it does have the power to draw up planning guidance based on 'The Precautionary Principle', as outlined in the petition.

**Talk to your Local Councilors** to see if they would be willing to put a motion before your local council asking the Welsh Government to draw up planning guidance as outlined in the FoE Petition (see above).

**(Editor's Note:** If you need help with any of the above suggestions then please contact Keith Ross of Safe Energy: [safeenergywales@virginmedia.com](mailto:safeenergywales@virginmedia.com))

**Keep an eye on local council planning applications in your area.** Check with your local council regularly to see if anyone has applied for permission to test drill or extract gas or oil. If you do come across an application, please don't assume that someone else is dealing with it. Unless you're certain that we know about it please contact either Frack Free Wales or your local campaign group to make sure we are aware of it.

**Finally, if you're too busy to do any of the above,** particularly if you're employed and have disposable income, then "give us yer money"!

As with most campaigning organisations, Frack Free Wales is always short of money to do what needs to be done. If you have anything to spare please consider donating it to the campaign.

Bank Account details: Frack Free Wales; Sort Code 08-92-99; Account No. 65693407  
– please quote reference "MBD"

If you have Internet Banking you can transfer money online, otherwise you can pay in at any branch of the Cooperative Bank.

We appreciate that spare cash is hard to come by in these troubled times, but any amount will be gratefully accepted.

## **Situations Vacant:**

There are never enough people around to do all the work that needs to be done, and we are always grateful for offers to help with admin and organisation at whatever level.

**Web Designer:** It's time to refresh our website and to build in new features to help the campaign and support local groups across Wales. If you have the skills, inclination and time to help with this, please get in touch.

**Newsletter Editor:** This is the first of what we hope will be regular (monthly) newsletters to keep everyone informed of what's happening in Wales. We'd love to develop it into a proper newsletter with an attractive layout and interactive features. Again, if you have the skills, inclination and time to help with this, please get in touch

## **Contact details for local groups:**

**Safe Energy (Swansea)** - email [safeenergywales@virginmedia.com](mailto:safeenergywales@virginmedia.com)

or call Keith Ross on 079 1467 7150

**Frack Off Llanelli** - email Paul Jennings [<pdjennings@btinternet.com>](mailto:pdjennings@btinternet.com) or Melanie Dawn [<welshdreamtime@btinternet.com>](mailto:welshdreamtime@btinternet.com)

**Frack Off Gower** - email [<frackoffgower@gmail.com>](mailto:frackoffgower@gmail.com)

**Vale Says No!** - email Louise Evans [<web@thevalesaysno.com>](mailto:web@thevalesaysno.com) or Andy Chyba [<fracking@chyba.go-plus.net>](mailto:fracking@chyba.go-plus.net)

**Villagers Against Drilling (Llantrithyd)** - email [<villagersagainstdrilling@gmail.com>](mailto:villagersagainstdrilling@gmail.com)

**RCT Llantrisant** - email Jenny Rolfe [<jennyrolfe@talktalk.net>](mailto:jennyrolfe@talktalk.net) or Wendy Carruthers [<wendycarruthers@jenner8.orangehome.co.uk>](mailto:wendycarruthers@jenner8.orangehome.co.uk)

**Frack Free Newport** - email Dave Yates [<dave.yates@phonecoop.coop>](mailto:dave.yates@phonecoop.coop)

**N.E Wales Anti-Fracking Action Network (Wrexham)** - email Luke Ashley [<lashley40@aol.com>](mailto:lashley40@aol.com)