

## **Forden WI join the energy debate**

It's not all tea and cakes at the WI. Forden Womens Institute is joining the energy debate, having invited a renewable energy consultant from the Centre of Alternative Land Use (CALU) to speak to them about biomass energy.

CALU is one of the Farming Connect development centres and is based at Henfaes Research Station, which is part of the University of Wales Bangor. CALU aims to be a focal point for technology transfer across a range of non-commodity enterprises.

"I was delighted to be invited to speak to the WI on behalf of CALU. Forden is a rural community that could really benefit from biomass energy. Im not surprised by their interest in this topic, many of the women will come from a farming background and live in a rural community which is becoming increasingly crippled by rising fossil fuel prices" says Catherine Heywood from ADAS. "Energy crops are seen as an alternative cropping option for forward thinking farmers. There is potential for them to produce their own fuel for heating, or for power generation on a larger scale. It opens up an opportunity for farmers to become price setters rather than price takers".

The talk in Forden Community Hall on 13th September will cover biomass fuel sources and the role of energy crops such as Miscanthus (elephant grass) and Short Rotation Willow Coppice. If you are a group interested in hearing more about biomass energy and energy crops, please contact CALU on 01248 680450 or visit their website [CALU@bangor.ac.uk](mailto:CALU@bangor.ac.uk)