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PEMBROKESHIRE NATIONAL TRUST ASSOCIATION

www.pembsnta.org.uk

NEWSLETTER No. 44 OCTOBER 2018

FROM YOUR CHAIRMAN

Greetings. My last report was written as snow fell. Now after a baking hot summer we look forward to whatever autumn delights Mother Nature sends our way.

There is a point of administration for which I am requesting your help. You are probably aware of the recent introduction of more stringent Data Protection regulation. To be able to continue contacting you about PNTA matters we need your signed consent. (Thanks to those who have already supplied this at the AGM, last April, or on the Lake District tour.) For those who will be paying by cheque to renew membership for 2019, the remodelled form that appears later in the newsletter includes the consent. There is no need to wait for January 1st, as we would value the return as soon as possible. For those with a standing order there is a separate consent form.

Thank you for your support of our activities. Our donation to local National Trust projects has been well received, and you can read about progress in this Newsletter.

Thanks to Tim Sims-Williams' organising skills we had a successful excursion to Aberglasney and Dinefwr, plus the trip to St Fagans. The guided tour of Newton House, at Dinefwr took us behind the scenes, to zones not normally open to the public. .

My special thanks go to Jim Price. Not only does he put together this Newsletter for us, many of the reports are written by him. (The website pembsnta.org.uk offers a further chance to review these write ups.) In addition, he put together a varied series of summer evening walks, catching up on the latest in the wildflower meadows of Colby, heading to the seaside at Abermawr, and strolling the oak woods at Lawrenny. Collecting the menu choices for the post ramble supper is no mean feat, but seeking out enough bars on the mobile phone to convey those orders adds an extra challenge when walking the country paths. In May we were blessed with fine weather to enjoy the splendid scenery of the Lake District, in good company. The booking form for the May 2019 tour to Dorset and Wiltshire is enclosed for those who wish to come with us. Places will be allocated on a first come first served basis.

Arnold Williams has been busy, and has put together an interesting series of talks to see us through to Spring. Several old friends return with more stories to tell, and we have a couple of presenters new to PNTA. Read on for more details.

Annie has lined up the Anniversary lunch at Wolfscastle, in November, to celebrate 20 years of PNTA. We look forward to Jonathan Hughes' talk, on that day.

Thanks go as well to Margret for her continuing work as treasurer, Sheila Ashton looking after membership, and Jane Mason for the PR.

As ever we would value offers of help in the running of the organisation, to ensure that PNTA has a future as well as a past.

REPORT ON 2018 SUMMER PROGRAMME EVENTS

Tuesday April 5th – AGM followed by a talk from Sarah Jones, a Dinefwr Ranger, about the Property .

AGM

There were no nominations for new Committee members so the existing Committee was re-elected.

Jonathan Hughes thanked the PNTA for their £5050 donation to the Pembs NT. Roland Edwards, our original Treasurer, noted that the PNTA has now donated over £40,000 since its formation.

Sarah Jones, a NT Ranger at Dynevor gave us a brief history of the estate. Dinefwr Castle was the traditional home of the Welsh rulers of West Wales. The most famous were Hywel Dda who ruled in the 10th century and the Lord Rhys who ruled from 1155 to 1197, who is thought to have rebuilt the castle. As with many estates, the fortunes of war caused it to change ownership several times in the Middle Ages but in the 17th century it came back into ownership of the Rhys (now Rice) family who built Newton House as a residence in 1660. Capability Brown created a landscape garden in 1775. The House was restored in the 1850s in the fashionable mock Gothic you can see now. In the mid-20th century the family had financial difficulties as the 7th and 8th Baron Dynevors died in quick succession. The family was hit by heavy double death duties and had to sell most of the estate. For a period the House was occupied by squatters and thieves who sold or stole the remaining furniture and other fittings. In 1986 the NT bought the Deer Park and the House in 1988, which was made possible

by the funding provided by the local community.

Sarah, a real enthusiast for her job, now talked of the Park, the area she really enjoys. The Park has a herd of wild Fallow deer, currently 124. They are self-sufficient, other than needing some extra feed in winter. They also need some culling from September to March to control numbers which are dictated by the grazing land available. The venison is sold locally. Sarah's real pride however is the White Park cattle and their story will be told in the report on our trip to Dinefwr in June.

PNTA SPRING TOUR to the LAKE DISTRICT – MAY 13th -17th. 2018

Annie Weaver prepared this report of a very successful holiday.

We set off on Sunday morning bathed in sunshine. It was almost too much to hope for as, up to then, our Spring weather had been disappointing to say the least. The coach was full and the passengers were in good spirits. We were blessed with Richard, a very personable driver, whose driving skill was to be put to the test on the narrow winding Lake District roads.

Our first stop was for coffee at Aberystwyth, then lunch at Chirk where we toured the castle and gardens. The rhododendrons and azaleas glowed in the sun. Our destination then was the Lancaster House Hotel just outside Lancaster. The check-in process was chaotic as it included making our different menu choices for dinner. The chaos continued into the dining room as there were too few waiting staff. However everyone was good natured and spent the time renewing old friendships or making new ones.

Monday saw us heading off for Coniston Pier to board the Steam Gondola which is now run by the National Trust, who renovated it after many years of dereliction. After renovation, it is as good as new and almost silent in its operation. Despite a touch of oil on a favourite pair of

trousers, everyone marked the trip as one to remember. A small splinter group disembarked at the landing stage for John Ruskin's Lakeland house, 'Brantwood'. They were able to enjoy an interesting poke around his house, with its stupendous views across the Lake, strolls around the garden and a pretty fine café. The larger party went on to Grasmere, where a goodly number made a beeline for an unassuming NT property, Allan Bank. Here they enjoyed a restorative hour or so, again enjoying views to remember.

By now the splinter group had joined up with the majority and the coach took us for the last treat of the day, Holehird Gardens, now run by the Lakeland Horticultural Society. The gardens are perched on a hillside with incredible views. The walled garden and its environs had many enthralled and would be sure to get a good rating on Trip Advisor.

Day 3 saw us at Blackwell, an Arts and Craft house above Lake Windermere. Split into two groups, we learned the history of its coming into being. It was built for a wealthy Manchester brewer, Sir William Holt as a holiday home, to a design by the architect Baillie-Scott. Everyone was struck by the attention to detail, the maximisation of light and craftsmanship.

A short journey brought us to Sizergh, a fortified house that has been in the Strickland family for over 700 years. Lunch, a tour of the grounds and House, brought the day to a peaceful end.

Day 4 saw us going back to Windermere where we boarded a Launch for a trip to the Southern end of the lake at Lakeside, counting the islands as we went and still in the sun and counting our blessings. We finished the day at Holkham Hall, once the home of several Dukes of Devonshire. It is not a NT property but highly recommended both for its House and amazingly varied garden. By now the small cubby hole in the coach that Richard had kept clear of luggage, was overflowing with plants that had been purchased by a

very few members of the party. For this reason only it was just as well that this was the last proper day of the holiday.

Back at the hotel, nerves were jangling in anticipation of the quiz. A good three-quarters of our number nailed their colours to the mast and in the end it was a close run result (if only the rest of my team had accepted the Sahara desert!)

Too soon our little holiday was at an end. We were back on the coach next morning with a final flourish in Powys Castle. We were treated to more wonderful gardens, with some trying to avert their eyes from the plant sales. Another refreshment stop at Aberaeron and, 'abracadabra', we were home.

Bountiful thanks to Andrew for all his meticulous planning and to Richard for bringing us back through tiny lanes filled with occasional marathon runners, caravans and coaches. These five days have filled our memory boxes with good humour and pleasing images to treasure until the next time.

DAY TRIPS

Thursday 21st June – Aberglasney and Dinefwr (Newton House) NT

Our first stop was at Aberglasney where we were given an introduction to the site covering both its history as a 'Country House', its decay in the 20th century and the revival of both House and Gardens from the 1990s onward. As a personal view, I think it is now the best garden in West Wales. The Garden is broken into a number of different areas; the walled gardens for vegetables and fruit, the shaded woodland garden, the stream garden and others. Each has been very professionally designed, seeking to bring colour and interest throughout the year. The House also is being renovated. The first two floors are now completed but the third floor still has some way to go. A unique part of the House is the Ninafarium where there is an enclosed garden of semi-tropical plants.

Our coach then took us to Dinefwr. As always with our groups, the baggage area of the coach was carrying a fine selection of specimens from the Garden Shop, at least I hope that was where they came from.

On reaching Dinefwr we were given an introductory talk about the House and site. We then had a Tour of the 'Hidden House', the area of servant's quarters, and the cleaning and food preparation rooms. These are not usually open to visitors. Jenna, our guide, was a mine of information and fun.

We then went to look at the White Park Cattle. There were records of this herd in the time of Hywel Dda, more than 1000 years ago, and they were part of the estate until the sale of the family belongings in the 20th century. When the Trust bought the Home Farm they decided to reestablish the herd. This has now been done and the last part our visit was to meet the herd with their Herdsman Rhodri and Ranger Sarah Jones. Rhodri explained there were 22 breeding cows in the herd which it is hoped will produce 22 calves this year. The herd is very hierarchical and 'chief cow' Mari can be very aggressive, and was so with the new bull who there is on trial. Rhodri brought the herd up to us (there was a fence!) and introduced Mari, the bull and some calves. He explained that they overwinter in sheds but graze the fields in summer. Their breeding is managed to avoid in-breeding in the herd. The test of the breeding process is that the cattle have a white body with black ears, black nose and black hooves.

We had an hour with the cattle and it was a super end to a lovely day.

Wednesday 11th July – St Fagans National History Museum, Cardiff

Just under 30 of our members took the coach to St Fagans on a dry and largely sunny day. We were given a welcoming talk which explained the purpose of the Museum was chronicling the historical lifestyle, culture and architecture of the

Welsh people. The museum has over 40 old buildings which have been moved to the site to capture the work and lifestyles of ordinary people through the ages. It also has St Fagan's Castle, a listed Elizabethan building with its garden.

The introductory talk also gave a detailed account of the latest project, the 'reconstruction' of the two halls from a court used by Llewelyn the Great in Anglesea. The original site only offers the basic foundations of the past buildings, but by utilising what is known of similar buildings of the era, around 1200AD, a design has been created. We were only allowed to view the near completed construction through the fence as public opening is not planned until October 2018. The Perspex windows were not typical of the era (!), but will hopefully keep the bats at bay.

There was not enough time to look in detail at all the houses but we were able to visit the Tudor Trader's House from Quay Street, Haverfordwest. There were many photos on display of Gerald Nash and his team painstakingly dismantling the building, at the site of the Old Post Office, before reconstruction at St Fagans.

In the round houses, akin to the ones at Castell Henllys, we learnt how the smoke from the fire minimized the pests in the thatch, and how the warm air dried out the inner lining of gorse branches, so they could provide insulation.

WALKS

Tuesday May 29th – Craig y Borion with Steve Whitehead

We had a sunny warm evening for our first walk of the season. Steve took us towards Craig y Borion to see the development of his traditional meadows. He showed us the meadow we saw last year when it was growing its first strip of wild flower enriched grassland. This year he had a second strip in progress which had used the 'green hay' from the first strip. Looking at the two together, the first strip had increased its wild flowers and the

second strip was no longer looking like a monoculture grass meadow. The important change was the amount of Yellow Rattle in the mix. It is a parasite which attacks grass and gives more opportunities for other plants to grow.

He then took us to a number of locations where trees are being planted to create wildlife corridors across the NT property and, where possible, to join up with woodlands in adjacent farms. The tree planting has a number of challenges. Firstly Steve wants to plant a variety of trees which will attract wildlife. Secondly he wants to plant as wide a variety as possible to minimize the risk of imported diseases, eg. the Dutch elm beetle, that can very quickly destroy a whole species in a very short time. Lastly he has to manage the bracken which will compete with young saplings in their early years of growth. He commented that all the trees were being planted by Colby volunteers with further help from the local Boy Scouts.

Steve wants as many people as possible to have access to this part of Colby and is creating more paths to help achieve this.

Tuesday June 12th – Abermawr and Treseissyllt with Mark Underhill, NT North Pems Manager.

On another lovely evening we assembled at Abermawr beach where Mark talked of the Trust's strategy for land management which is driven by the statistics that show a serious drop in most of the fauna species in the UK. The Trust is developing an active programme to improve the biodiversity of the flora growing on its land as this should provide a better environment for fauna. In Pembrokeshire there is a common agreement on this strategy between the Trust and the National Park. However, although they control a significant length of coastline, this in many places is very narrow which limits the impact they can have.

Mark's walk, as we left Abermawr, took us past a sandstone' cliff in which there

were many active sand martin nests. Apparently sand martins are some of the earliest birds to migrate back to the UK in summer. We then walked across Aberbach beach where, as we climbed the cliff, there was a NT sign saying we were entering Treseissyllt. (I have still not found anyone who can pronounce this at a normal speaking rate). Here Mark explained that 'Treseiss...' is a farm of about 150 acres on which the Trust would like to experiment to see if it is possible to run a coastal farm in a way that meets its conservation guidelines and would allow the farmer to make a living. He then introduced us to Ian and Nia, both with familiarity of farming in Pembrokeshire and in good environmental practice, who have just taken on the challenge. We had a long chat about the problems and opportunities of the farm. These include soil depth, acidity, use of fertilisers and pest control. We wished them well as we returned to Abermawr.

Tuesday July 17th – Lawrenny with Alex Shilling

Our circular walk around Lawrenny was led by Stackpole Ranger Alex Shilling and was the first time he has acted as our guide. The NT land at Lawrenny comes under the management responsibility of Stackpole.

The first part of the walk took us through woods on NT land. They are a protected because of Sessile oaks and the under-canopy of Service trees, related to Rowan trees. Both these trees are rare in West Wales but have thrived at Lawrenny for a long time. The Service trees look very ordinary at this time of year but apparently their leaves go bright red in the autumn. As with all woods, there are competitor trees at Lawrenny. Holly trees and Rhododendron contend with the Service trees to create the understory. They have to be managed to stop them becoming dominant. Interestingly bracken is the enemy of the Sessile oaks. It grows well in the woodland and can stunt the Sessile

saplings. The woodland is also an SSI with lichens, moss and liverwort thriving in the damp environment. We then moved out of the woodland and walked along the River Cleddau shoreline. Alex was relieved he had calculated the tidal timetable correctly. The eye catching feature, along the little cliffs, were the huge Sessile oaks just hanging onto the edge with all their roots growing inland.

We joined the road taking us back to Lawrenny but then took a path which cuts back to Lawrenny Quay. Standing near the site of the demolished Lawrenny House, there was a wonderful view where the tributaries of the Cleddau split to follow their ways as the Carew and Cresswell Rivers.

Monday August 13th – Bumblebee Talk and Walk at the Colby Walled Garden – Clare Flynn, Outreach Ranger for the Bumblebee Conservation Trust in Wales.

15 members who had replied to Andrew's Mail Chimp message had a fascinating introduction to the world of Bumblebees. Clare explained that there were 4 classes of bees in the UK; the domesticated honey bee, several hundred species of solitary bees, around 20 species of bumblebees and 6 species of cuckoo bees. The honey bee lives in colonies of thousands, the solitary bees live alone and bumblebees have 50 or so workers supporting the queen bee. The cuckoo bees, as with birds, have a different approach. When the bumblebee queen has raised the workers who will feed her new offspring, the cuckoo queen bee enters the nest, kills the queen and lays its own eggs which the bumblebee workers then raise. The wild bees play a very important role in the pollination of plants and there is now a real concern that the rise of intensive farming and the use of insecticides have significantly reduced the number of bees, causing a further potential risk to farming. Clare then took us out to the Walled Garden to look at the bumblebees seeking nectar from the flowers. She had a kit

which enabled her to catch and identify the bees without damaging them. We saw an interesting range but were not able to identify all because their body colours had bleached during the summer.

Clare would love to have some more helpers. If anyone is interested they should contact Andrew who will pass on her contact details.

FUTURE EVENTS

PNTA 20th Anniversary Celebratory Lunch- Friday 23rd November

This will be held at Wolfscastle Country Hotel and I hope that there will be a good turnout for this event. It will be good to have a relaxed meet up with everyone before the hurly burly that December brings.

Past chairmen have been invited and Jonathan Hughes will be our after lunch speaker. He will talk light heartedly about a recent six month secondment to the Wimpole Estate in Cambridgeshire.

I am enclosing a form in the Newsletter so you can fill in your menu choices. Please then send the form and cheque to me. The address is on the booking form. I would be grateful if you could send your booking form in as soon as possible.

It will be lovely to see lots of familiar faces, so I do hope you are able to come join us.

Annie Weaver

May 2019 Tour – Annie has given us this overview.

We are hoping to go south next May for a change. Andrew and I have been on a reconnoitre, and think we have come up with an itinerary that will appeal to many.

The Connaught Hotel in Bournemouth is lovely, just two roads away from the esplanade where you can get wonderful views of the pier and beach. The food was good, hotel staff were very helpful and the associated spa has a pool that will appeal to some of us. We have arranged for porters to take luggage to our rooms in the Lodge during check in. There is a small

lift to all floors but there will still be a tiny flight of 4-5 stairs on each floor to contend with. (The hotel has said that anyone unable to negotiate these is able to have an accessible room in the main hotel for a small surcharge).

On our outward journey we are calling into Laycock - a village owned by the Trust and a frequent setting for many period dramas, and the Abbey with amazing cloisters. Fox-Talbot a pioneer of photography in Victorian times, lived there and the NT has a splendid exhibition of his life and work in the visitors' centre. Coffee shops abound

Our first day will find us not far away- in Kingston Lacy NT. The house is interesting and full of fascinating stories about one previous incumbent in particular and his avid collecting including an incredible collection of Egyptian artefacts. The garden is worth seeing too, especially the extensive Japanese garden with lots of interesting acers. There are two electric carts which can be booked in advance (for a small donation). The house tickets are timed to avoid overcrowding. We will get back to the hotel with plenty of time to use the spa, go for a wander or just sit and enjoy the surroundings

On Tuesday we are going to Nothes (early Victorian) Fort near Weymouth. This has been brought back close its former glory by an army of volunteers. They have recreated history by means of a maze of tableaux bringing us back to its various heydays over the last 160 years or so. Abbotsbury gardens follow on and are close by Nothes. These have been lauded over the years and although we didn't have time to visit the gardens ourselves we are confident that it will be well worth a visit.

Wednesday will be close to base again. We are plotting a boat trip around the harbour that lasts about an hour and will let us see Brownsea Island and the legendary Sandbanks where only multi-millionaires can live. In the afternoon members can choose, possibly dependent on the weather, between several options;

the Russell Coates Museum, the nearby Compton Acres Garden or doing your own thing in Bournemouth. Russell Coates was a keen supporter of Arts and Crafts. He bought from current artists of the day and his house, where the collection is held, was built especially to allow him and his wife to be able to live with their extensive collection suitably displayed.

On our way home on Thursday we are intending to stop at Stourhead.

I have fingers crossed that the weather is kind to us again.

WINTER PROGRAMME 2018/19 TALKS

Talks will be held on the first Thursday of the month in the Crundale Community Hall starting at 2.30pm.

Thursday October 4th – ‘The Landshipping Mining Disaster’ – Dr. Robert Davies

Dr Davies has lived in the Cardiff area for most of his life but has had holiday homes in Landshipping and Narberth for 40 years. He graduated in Biophysics at what is now Cardiff University, where he has also had a distinguished research career in X-ray Microscopy.

His interest in Local History led him to investigate the Landshipping disaster of 1844. His talk will focus on this but will also look at other mining disasters in the County as well as the social consequences and political implications.

Thursday November 1st – ‘South Africa to Namibia’ – Julian Cremona

Julian has given us two previous talks on the flora and fauna of Costa Rica and Madagascar, both with superb photos. I am sure he will be able to repeat this with his travels in Southern Africa.

We hope that Cathy Orchard from the St Davids NT Shop will be attending with a range of stock for sale. (See MailChimp for confirmation). This

should give us an early start for Christmas shopping and the chance to help the NT. If you think you are likely to make purchases, please can you arrive earlier than usual so that the start of the Talk is not delayed.

Thursday December 6th – William Marshal (The Greatest Knight) and his building of Pembroke Castle’ – Gareth Mills.

Gareth spoke to us previously on the stationing of American Troops in Pembrokeshire prior to D-Day. This talk will be about William Marshall, one of the most important Knights of the Middle Ages. In his 70 years he became the most powerful Baron in Britain, served 4 consecutive Kings of England and was the chief architect of Magna Carta. As Earl of Pembroke he developed Pembroke Castle to make it impregnable.

Thursday January 3rd 2019 – ‘Effective Communication’ - David Padfield

Dave was Cardiff born. His career was teaching English and French to international students in the Further and Higher Educational sector. He is now retired and living in Crundale.

Dave’s talk will address the way we communicate with each other. He says it sounds boring but is based on experiences taken from his teaching career. He hopes to make the audience both think deeply and laugh out loud.

Thursday - February 7th – ‘Flowers of Pembrokeshire’ – John Archer Thompson

John has given us talks on the Geology of the Pembrokeshire coast and of Skomer. This talk will focus on the variety of flowers that are supported by Pembrokeshire’s complex geology.

Thursday - March 7th – ‘The Art of Collecting Antiques’ – Dai Evans

Dai is the Director of Picton Castle and has had a long interest in Antiques. He will talk to us about judging the value of

antiques and some of the wiles of the trade.

April 4th – AGM and Talk.

Details to be announced in the Spring Newsletter

NT NEWSBOARD

Steve Whitehead, Mark Underhill, Hadyn Garlick and Angela Jones have sent us information about Trust activities around the County.

Colby Woodland Garden

Steve Whitehead reports:

Over the late summer we’ve been busy harvesting hay on Craig-y-Borion Farm. The wildflower-rich areas have been seed-harvested and the seed spread on to newly mown and harrowed areas. This should effectively double the area of restored wildflower meadow next year. This Autumn we’ll also be sowing some field margins with over-wintering bird-seed mixes for next winters birds, and we’ll maintain that over the next few years along the woodland edges so that both food and shelter are provided.

Control of bracken continues on the field margins and we’ve been fighting to reduce Himalayan balsam both along the streams and across the estate farmland. Another season of knotweed control is also underway on the edges of the estate where it has spread in from fly-tipped waste.

There’ll be lots of Rhododendron removal to look forward to over the winter, with big bonfires to keep us all warm. The new tree nursery is finally finished after great efforts by the local Scouts, regular volunteers and a working holiday group. We finally have a good place to grow on native trees for hedgerow improvement works.

The restored mine-wheel looks great, and the volunteers have now turned their attention to the old leat running through the woods, that supplies the walled garden rill. With a bit of restoration and

improvement in mind, it should keep flowing freely for many future years. They have also nearly finished restoring the large white wooden bench which has been missing this summer as it received a thorough make-over.

Lee and Angela, our residential volunteers at little Craig y Borion have finally made their move to a small-holding in the Preseli Hills. We won't be losing them all together as they still intend to give us some time when they can. But we're now looking for some new volunteers to step in, so if anyone wants to learn some skills living in a lovely setting, tell them to get in touch!

North Pembrokeshire

Mark Underhill (Countryside Manager for North Pembrokeshire) reports.

Thank you PNTA! After a slightly longer wait than anticipated we have planning permission to install our new information boards at Runwayskiln Café, Marloes. These boards were very kindly funded by PNTA and tell the story of Runwayskiln as well as providing a "chalk board" to keep visitors updated on local events. Watch this space; I will let you know as soon as they are installed!

After what felt like a very long winter, we finally turned out our cattle onto grass in May to begin their conservation grazing on the grasslands at Southwood. At the same time it was nice to see our new graziers putting stock out at Treseissyllt and on the recently tenanted areas of Southwood. Grazing is a really important "conservation tool" and grazing with cattle is what we really want. Cows eat by wrapping their tongues around a clump and tearing it off, where sheep and ponies nibble with their teeth. As a result, grass grazed by cattle is generally a bit longer and much more varied in height. This variation creates lots of little micro-habitats in the pasture, which in turn is great for a wider range of plants and insects.

In mid-June our Area Ranger James teamed up with another ranger from Chirk

to begin this year's grassland monitoring in North Pembrokeshire. A chance to see if the cows work is paying off! James visited a selection of the key grassland sites in North Pembrokeshire which we have been grazing with cattle for a number of years. Early results show some promise with a real improvement in the grasslands at Treseissyllt and Castell.

It was about this time (mid-June) that I led a guided walk for the PNTA at Treseissyllt to see the results of many years of National Trust stewardship. It was lovely not only to see the drifts of wildflowers and butterflies on the site, but also to meet our new tenants Nia and Ian who helped me explain just how important our farming tenants are in our plans to bring wildlife back to our countryside.

Keeping with the theme of nature: When is a weed not a weed? When it is a rare arable plant! It is not widely known but West Pembrokeshire is a hot-spot for annual plants such as corn marigold, weasel snout and small-flowered catchfly.



These annual plants used to be common weeds of arable farmland but have been virtually wiped out by intensification of agriculture in other parts of the UK. The National Trust in Pembrokeshire has a number of farms, Southwood and Gupton amongst them, where we grow spring arable crops without herbicides especially to encourage a weedy crop. We don't mind if they are a little "weedy" as the real objective in these fields is to grow a fine crop of these rare annual plants. This year we monitored half of our best arable fields with Plant Life to see how these special

plants were doing. The final results have yet to be collated, but we found all of the species we were looking for including the rarest plant we have: small-flowered catchfly



Since I last wrote we are happy to welcome two new members to the North Pembrokeshire team. Alys Chapman joined us in June for 6 months as our new ranger. Alys brings considerable experience from her 18 months as a full-time volunteer at Gower. Her main role will be working with Dan (our full time volunteer) and the “Thursday volunteers” to get through the back-log of practical tasks that have accumulated over the last few months. Miriam Cattermole is also joining us as a full-time volunteer to work alongside Alys and Dan. Miriam is a recent graduate looking to build on her experience as a visitor welcome volunteer at Blenheim Palace.

The National Trust is very lucky to attract so many talented and hard-working volunteers to support our cause. In North Pembrokeshire we have a small but very dedicated team of “Thursday Volunteers” who meet (every Thursday) and take on a wide range of tasks. This year we have really enjoyed developing two new projects with our volunteers.

Our volunteers have been working with our Archaeological Consultant (Claudine Gerrard) to develop opportunities for volunteers to help monitor the condition of

some of the important archaeology in North Pembrokeshire. National Trust properties in North Pembrokeshire are rich in archaeological remains from Neolithic burial chambers to World War II airfields, and ongoing monitoring of their condition is an important part of their conservation. Following an initial training day in April to gauge the interest with volunteers, where the feedback was really positive, we have four further training days with Claudine planned during the autumn where our volunteers will learn this useful monitoring skill on-the-job with Claudine. Once trained we think our volunteers will be able to monitor up to 10 of our most important archaeological sites each year.

We have also been working with our volunteers and the National Trust Conservation team on the restoration of a winch or “windlass” at Little Milford on the banks of the River Cleddau. The windlass was made by a local firm (Stephens of Pembroke) in the late 19th Century was used by women to draw up coal from the “bell-pits” that can still be seen in the woods at Little Milford. It is the only surviving piece of machinery found in Cleddau Woods which tells the story of coal mining in this area. Under the expert eye of conservationist Tim Martin, the *Thursday vols* have dismantled the winch, brought it back to the workshop at Mathry and brushed and scrubbed it until it shined like a new pin, before painting it in a specially chosen green paint very similar to the one used in the late 1800s! PNTA very generously helped us to fund the interpretation and presentation of the windlass where it will be relocated at the car park at Little Milford. The text has been written, we now await planning permission and our instructions from Tim before we reassemble and then re-install in pride of place at Little Milford Wood.

In February it was snowing as our plucky car-park teams prepared to open for the season. Fast forward to June and they were working in temperatures in the 30s! I

thought it was time I took a reality check on what it is like to work in one of these front-line roles. So I took an early shift at Martin's Haven car-park to see just how busy this car park for Skomer can get. I came away (a little dazed) and with renewed respect for our car-park teams and the fantastic job they do! As well as the day-to-day welcoming visitors, scanning visitors membership cards and squeezing as many cars in as possible; our team are also an absolute mine of information on boat-times, where to eat and whether you will see a puffin or not! Well done to the North Pembrokeshire car-park team (and all the teams welcoming visitors across Pembrokeshire), you make me be proud to be part of the team!

We have had a busy season of events linked to 2018 "Year of the Sea" from beach cleans to crab catching. However, our speciality events start in September when seal pup season starts. Visitors can join us on a guided walk to spot the Atlantic grey seals and see exactly why coastal conservation is so important for nature. Our walks from Marloes are fully booked but we still have spaces on our seal pup walks at Pwll Deri, why not join us?

Stackpole and Gupton Farm

Haydn Garlick reports:

Hello, I am Haydn Garlick the new Lead Ranger on the Stackpole Estate. I have been in post since May this year, although it already feels like I've been here ages!

My career has come full circle, as I started my work right here as an 18 year old seasonal ranger back in 1982. Since then, I have also worked for the National Trust in North Pembrokeshire, spending 16 years there as an Area Ranger. More recently I was employed as the South Area Ranger for the Pembrokeshire Coast National Park.

My connection with the Estate goes back to my grand-father who was the last Head Gardener for the Cawdor family, arriving here from North Wales in the 1920s. I

grew up on the estate, fishing in the lakes and playing in the woods as a young boy, which started off my interest in wildlife and love for the place. That was back when it was still a private estate and you would only have about 30 people on Barafundle on a sunny August day! What's more, you would know them all as they were all employees of the estate!

What a contrast with today, as we spend many sunny summer days managing visitors and their cars at our honey-pot sites at Stackpole Quay and Bosherton. This year we have tried to spread the pressure by encouraging people to visit our less busy properties. A new family trail has been opened at Broadhaven South as part of this mission. We have also been trying to deal with overnight parking and illegal camping issues, particularly at Freshwater West. This has meant early morning patrols at weekends, speaking to camper van owners and dealing with the aftermath of their stay.

Nearby Gupton Farm has seen a good year for important arable weeds; a recent plant survey found them to be having their best year for some time, so hopefully we are heading in the right direction on this front. One unwanted weed however has become established in the dune restoration fields; we have had to control ragwort by a mixture of grazing and chemical methods, whilst the extreme dry weather also helped. Skylarks have nested in the dunes and I saw a lovely marsh harrier over the reed-beds recently.

Several working holidays have taken place over the last few months, covering such diverse activities as mountain bike trail repairs and wildlife photography. Clearance work to reveal a former fish pond in Castle Dock Wood was also undertaken. This was originally used to hold trout for the family at Stackpole Court.

We have been busy with the usual summer maintenance of our path system around the estate and the clearance of vegetation in

the newly-planted areas of some of our woodlands.

Our bat walks have been really popular again this year, with good numbers of horseshoe bats emerging from the stable block/courtyard flats.

Finally, a big thank-you to all of our helpers and volunteers who have worked so hard over the summer and to all of the staff who have made me feel so welcome.

Tudor Merchant's House

Angela Jones reports;

The house and garden have continued to develop and give a flavour of all things Tudor! The staff and volunteers are always keen to develop the offer here and this year has been no different. We did hope to be able to develop our 'sleep' project in the bedroom this summer but now have good plans for it next year. It will add to the value of the property and the approach to sleeping was not a 21st century one! When we talk to people about the manner in which people approached bedtime they are fascinated and I am hopeful that over the autumn and winter months we will be able to develop this so that there is more information and visual aids to show off and staff and volunteers are happy with the new information and talking about it. Watch this space!

The garden was in receipt of Pembrokeshire National Trust Association funding this year and we have worked hard to be able to develop it 1500s style. Over the autumn we will be able to replace the wattle hurdles (with many thanks to Steve and his team at Colby for their help with this) and Mair and Michelle our gardening volunteers are busy planning and potting herbs and plants that would have graced our (then) much larger garden! Our gardening volunteers have worked so hard to be able to portray the garden as it would have been and people enjoy finding out about all the ways in which the Tudors would have used their herb garden for medicines and dyeing. Next year I am

hoping that the full garden will be representative of Tudor times – please come along and have a look!

Pembrokeshire National Trust Association has also given money to us for the production of worksheets to compliment the Tudor Dolls that we are going to be placing around the house from the beginning of September – each doll has a 'job' and we are encouraging people (big and small) to find out how many different jobs they can spot and fill in a record in the form of a worksheet.

At the moment the house is full of people busy playing games. The Tudor toys are very well used and many know exactly what each game is – who says that nothing much changes!

EVENTS AUTUMN/WINTER 2018

National Trust Pembrokeshire

Kate Rees has sent us a list of events at the various properties.

COLBY WOODLAND GARDEN

Seed gathering Sunday

Sunday 16 September, 10.30am-12.30pm and 2pm-4pm

Join our head gardener at Colby and learn about the woodland's collection of trees and their seeds. As part of the guided session, you'll also be able to gather and plant a seed of your own to take home and nurture!

£3 per person, normal admission charges apply. Booking essential via 01834 811885.

Apple Day celebrations

Sunday 21 October, 1pm-4pm

Celebrate all things apple at Colby! Join us for a guided walk to our newly planted orchard of Welsh apple varieties or just enjoy some apple-inspired produce at the Bothy Tea-room.

£3 per person, normal admission charges apply. Booking essential via 01834 811885.

Build Colby's wicker man

Saturday 27 October to Saturday 3 November, 10am-4pm

Throughout half-term we invite you to get crafty to help us build a wicker man for the wildflower meadow. The creation will be on display at Colby in October, concluding with a bonfire celebration on 4 November. Free activity, normal admission charges apply.

Halloween: wicker man workshop and campfire cooking

Wednesday 31 October, 10.30-12.30pm and 2pm-4pm

This Halloween, we're swapping lantern making for willow weaving! Get hands-on with our workshop and create your very own wicker man to take home. Afterwards, warm up with our cooking on a campfire session.

£4 per two-hour session, normal admission charges apply. Booking essential via 01834 811885.

Wicker man bonfire

Sunday 4 November, 5pm-7pm

Join us for a bonfire celebration in the wildflower meadow as we burn Colby's wicker man. Stay warm with refreshments from our friends at the Bothy Tea-room.

Free event, no booking needed.

Colby's winter fair

Saturday 17 and Sunday 18 November, 10am-4pm

Get festive and start your Christmas shopping with us at the annual winter fair. Have a browse and enjoy a range of stalls offering local art, craft and homemade goods.

NORTH PEMBROKESHIRE**Seal pupwalks, Pwll Deri**

Saturday 22 September and 6 October, 10am-12.30pm

Seal pup season is here! See the annual arrival of the Atlantic grey seals and their pups below the cliffs of Pwll Deri on a one-mile guided walk with a National Trust ranger.

Please meet at Preseli Venture, Parcynole. £9 per adult, £6 per child includes tea or coffee and a bacon roll. Booking essential via 01437 720385.

Halloween at Southwood Farm

Wednesday 31 October, 1pm-5pm

Have a happy Halloween at Southwood Farm as we host a series of spooky activities! From broomstick making and face painting to creepy craft and a scary spider trail.

Free entry, no booking needed.

Southwood Farm Christmas Fair

Saturday 8 December, 10.30am-4pm

Celebrate the festive season at Southwood Farm as we host our annual Christmas Fair. Browse stalls filled with arts, crafts and local produce, explore the historic farm range and enjoy a refreshing winter walk.

STACKPOLE**Beach clean at Freshwater West**

Sunday 16 September, 10am-12pm

Grab a litter picker and help us care for this beautiful stretch of coastline with our September beach clean, part of the All Wales Beach Clean campaign with Keep Wales Tidy and the Marine Conservation Society.

Free event, no booking needed.

Barafundle Bay Trailathlon

Sunday 14 October, 10am-12.30pm

The Barafundle Bay Trailathlon returns for its third year! Run, make a splash and get muddy with an adrenaline-fuelled day of sporting activity on the Stackpole Estate.

£20 per adult, £15 per child and £50 for family entry (2 adults, 2 children). Booking essential via 01646 623110.

Bushcraft drop-in day

Monday 29 October, 11am-3pm

Have a go at bushcraft with our drop-in day of activities. Learn the basics of woodland survival with our rangers.

£5 per child, no booking needed.

Festive fun run

Sunday 16 December, 10.15am-12pm
Burn off those Christmas calories with a festive fun run around the Stackpole Estate; choose from 1.5 miles, 3 miles or 6 miles. Enjoy a mince pie in the Boathouse Tea-room afterwards. Free, no boogie needed.

TUDOR MERCHANT'S HOUSE

Tudor household trail

Tuesday 4 September to Sunday 4 November, 11am-5pm

Monday 5 November to Sunday 2 December, 11am-3pm

Look for the Tudor dolls hidden around the house and find out what their jobs were. Lots of different roles were needed to make the household run smoothly.

Free trail, normal admission charges apply.

Pomander making

Sunday 28 October to Sunday 4 November, 11am-5pm

Come and have a go at making your own pomander! Tudor houses were quite smelly, so they used pomanders as air fresheners!

£1.50 per pomander, normal admission charges apply. No booking needed.

A traditional Tudor Christmas

Saturday 1 to Sunday 23 December, 11am-3pm

Get into the festive spirit at the Tudor Merchant's House this December. Come and see the house traditionally decorated and find out how the Tudors celebrated the 12 days of Christmas.

PNTA WEBSITE

The Association website at www.pembsnta.org.uk contains information about the Association, our Events Programme, Newsletter and Association news items. We hope it will attract new members and, together with email and MailChimp, help us provide up to date information for members.

MEMBERSHIP SUBSCRIPTIONS

Your membership subscriptions are due for renewal on Jan. 1st 2019. Thanks if you have already completed a Standing Order or paid by other means. If not, will you please send a cheque, with the form attached to the Newsletter, to the Membership Secretary. Subscription rates are unchanged at £5 for Individual and £8 for Family Membership. If you would like to pay by Standing Order, please ask the Membership Secretary for a form. (Telephone No. 01437 731525)

CONTACT BY EMAIL

We are continuing to increase our use of electronic communications. If you have an email address and are not receiving messages, such as **MailChimp**, from us, or have just started an email account, please email our Membership Secretary, Sheila Ashton at robashnton95@yahoo.co.uk.

OFFICERS AND COMMITTEE

MEMBERS - 2018/19

Your officers and committee members are as follows (* Officer):

CHAIRMAN*	Andrew Weaver Tel:01646 831323
VICE-CHAIRMAN*	Jim Price(Newsletter and Walks) Tel: 01646 661344
TREASURER*	Margret Price Tel: 01646 661344
SECRETARY*	Annie Weaver Tel: 01646 831323

GENERAL MEMBERS

MEMBERSHIP SEC Sheila Ashton
01437 731525

TALKS	Dr. Arnold Williams 01437 720169
TRIPS	Tim Sims-Williams 01348 811412
P.R.	Jane Mason Tel:
MailChimp	Andrew Weaver 01646 831323

**PEMBROKESHIRE NATIONAL TRUST ASSOCIATION
CYMDEITHAS PENFRO YR YMDDIRIEDOLAETH GENEDLAETHOL**

Data Protection and Privacy Policy

The purpose of holding contact details for our members is to be able to communicate with them about the Association's activities and relevant information about the National Trust, with their informed consent.

Where provided, this information will include name, address, phone number and e mail address. A record will be kept as to when and how this consent was given. The master copy of the data base will be kept by the membership secretary. This information will be shared with limited other members of the committee who have need for contact details for communications as listed above. Data will be deleted within six months of non-renewal of membership.

Members will have the right to review what information is held by the Association about them. Members or past members will have the right to withdraw consent, for some or all of their contact details being held, and can request that such information is erased from the Association's database.

The information held will not be passed to third parties, except in the case of "Mail Chimp" for e mailed updates and reminders about forthcoming events. In this case names and e mail addresses will be passed to Mail Chimp, where the information will be held within the PNTA account. Mail Chimp's Privacy Shield certification conforms to EU General Data Protection Regulation requirements, and they do not sell data to other third parties.

April 2018

**DATA PROTECTION CONSENT FORM
FOR THOSE WITH EXISTING STANDING ORDERS**

Return to: Sheila Ashton, Hon. Membership Secretary, PNTA, Pond Meadow, Wiston,
SA62 4PR

I am a member of PNTA and consent to my contact details being held by the Association
Please tick below. You can say yes to as many as you want.

I am happy to be contacted by	post	Yes	No.....
	phone	Yes	No.....
	e mail	Yes....	No

If consenting to e mail contact can you please confirm the e mail address(es)

.....
.....

Please let Sheila Ashton know if your contact details change.

Signed _____
Name _____

Signed _____
Name _____

Dated _____

**Booking Form for 20th Anniversary Lunch
Friday November 23rd 2018**

at

Wolfscastle Country Hotel

12.30 for 1.00pm

Menu

To Start

A Ham hock, caper & parsley terrine, date and pistachio toast and red onion marmalade

B Salmon fishcakes with homemade tartare sauce and dressed leaves

C Pea, mint and spinach soup with creme fraiche

Main

D Slow cooked Welsh beef, mashed potato, seasonal vegetables and wine gravy

E Vegetable lasagne

F Herb crusted salmon, crushed new potatoes, spinach and seasonal vegetables

Pudding

G Strawberry cheesecake and chocolate ice-cream

H Sticky toffee pudding, butterscotch sauce and vanilla ice-cream

I Apple and blackberry crumble and custard

Tea/ coffee and fudge

£25.00 per head

NAME

Menu choices

S _____ M _____ P _____

email or tel: _____

NAME

Menu choices

S _____ M _____ P _____

email or tel: _____

Please send cheque made payable to PNTA and menu choices to Annie Weaver, Larks Rising, Kiln Park, Burton SA73 1NY

Tel 01646 831323 or annielweaver@gmail.com

FORM FOR PNTA SPRING TOUR 12TH - 16TH MAY 2019

Wiltshire, Dorset and Bournemouth

We will be staying at the **Connaught Hotel, Bournemouth**, which is a short walk from the elevated West Cliff promenade.

Our activities whilst there are subject to alteration, but are likely to include:-

Kingston Lacy NT, Nothe Fort at Weymouth, the Subtropical Gardens at Abbotsbury, and a Poole Harbour cruise.

We intend to allow for more free time to enjoy Bournemouth and/or the hotel spa, but plan an optional trip to the local Russell-Cotes Museum, and maybe the nearby Compton Acres Garden.

Lacock and Stourhead are the National Trust properties that we intend to visit en route.

We will be travelling with Richards Bros.

Those who are not National Trust members may need to pay the entry fee for NT properties visited. The price of entry to optional visits e.g. Russell-Cotes Museum and Compton Acres, is not included, but other fares and entrance fees are.

THE COST WILL BE **£450 pp (single supplement £70)**. This includes a 3 course dinner, bed and breakfast, and the use of the leisure facilities at the hotel.

Please send your cheque for the deposit (**£50 per person**) with your booking form.

We need at least 25 on board to make the trip viable, **but recent tours have filled the coach, so early applications are advised, to avoid disappointment.**

Final payment will be due at the beginning of March. (Travel insurance is not included.)

Return form and cheque made out to PNTA and send to our Treasurer;
Margret Price, Leys Cottage, 1Axton Hill, Pembroke, SA71 5HD

Name/Names _____

Address _____

Phone number _____

email address _____

Single ____ Double ____ Twin ____ room (Please tick)