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PEMBROKESHIRE NATIONAL TRUST ASSOCIATION

NEWSLETTER No. 39 MARCH 2016

FROM YOUR CHAIRMAN

Now is the Time to say Goodbye

This is definitely my last newsletter as Chair of the Association. As I stated in the September 2015 edition I have now completed 4 years in the role and, as Judy and I will be leaving the area in June, it is time to say goodbye.

Thanks for all the support you have given to the Association whilst I have been in the Chair. It has been a privilege to represent you. I have been extremely fortunate to have had a series of hard working, dedicated committee members over the last four years.

We have achieved quite a few notable things; a wider membership base, an improved communication set up via e-mail, a new website (pemsnta.org.uk), and a better link-up with neighbouring NT Associations.

Unlike Frank Sinatra who sang “regrets I’ve had a few, but then again, too few to mention” there are a couple I would like to bring up. The perennial issue of trying to persuade members to join the Committee is one (particularly the role of Treasurer). The other is the fact that, although we have some 300 plus members, we don’t seem to get more than 10-15% to the many tours and trips that are organised. However on a brighter note we have managed to get sufficient members for the tour to Northumbria this year.

Valedictory messages are often reflective, sometimes nostalgic: however I think we should, as an Association, always look

forward and therefore, on all our parts, offer the new Chair best wishes for the coming years. I know that he/she will have a very supportive group of Committee members. The existing Committee, with exception of Judi Lee and June Conlon, are willing to continue with their roles. Thanks for that. Both Judi and June have additional commitments, which make their attendance at Committee meetings and talks problematical. Thank you both for your input.

Margret Price has done a sterling job as acting Treasurer but feels that this role should be passed on. Once again..... volunteers please!

I’m sure that the Association will continue to provide its members with interesting talks, trips and tours which will enrich and expand their social, educational and cultural experiences.

Judy and I have made many friends through our involvement with the Association. We shall miss them, but who knows we may join up with some of you on the next tour!

And with that, I shall say once more, Thank You.

Dick Coggins

PNTA GIFT TO PEMBROKESHIRE NATIONAL TRUST

This year we have been able to donate £1500 to the National Trust. The Committee has decided to donate most of it (about £1100) to the Tudor Merchants House who are keen to create some

interpretative cushions, an idea they have 'stolen' from Cotehele.

The balance will go to Stackpole to help them buy an 'all-terrain' wheel chair capable of going on beaches.

The picture below is the 'Show Trailer' bought with our donation last year to the North Pembrokeshire NT team. It has just been delivered and is awaiting decoration with 'NT livery' which will include an acknowledgement of PNTA assistance. It will be used to increase NT visibility at local events.



REPORT ON WINTER PROGRAMME TALKS

Tuesday October 13th – 'The Queen of Fitzrovia' – David Dando

David, a retired teacher, when visiting Tenby, noticed a 'blue plaque' in Lexden Crescent stating 'Nina Hamnett was born there in 1890'. Not a name he knew, he researched her life and discovered a remarkable personality.

Nina spent her early years between Tenby and Boarding School, before studying Art in London from 1907 – 10, tutored by Frank Brangwyn. Her first job was sketching clients at the prestigious Café Royal. From 1914 she led an exotic life moving regularly between London and Paris. She was a capable artist but also modelled. In Paris Nina quickly became part of the Bohemian community, mixing with the likes of Modigliani, Matisse and Chagall. In London she joined Roger Fry's Omega Workshops and was on the

edge of the Bloomsbury Set. After 1918, back in Paris, she boosted her artistic income as a Professional Introducer at the prestigious Dome restaurant extending her contacts to the famous writers, theatre and film personalities of the time. In the mid 1920's she returned to London and settled in Fitzrovia, gaining the title of 'Queen of Fitzrovia' because of her wide range of acquaintances.

In the last few decades of her life she was a habitue of pubs trading anecdotes for drinks. Her health deteriorated and she died in 1956 from complications after falling from her apartment window onto railings 40 feet below. It was uncertain if it was suicide or a drunken accident. Her last words were 'Why don't they let me die'

Tuesday November 10th – 'Dale Fort, the First 500 Million Years' – Dr. Stephen Morell

Stephen, a tutor at the Dale Fort Field Study Centre for many years, divided his history into three periods; the geological, prehistory and historical eras.

The old red sandstone rocks of the Dale peninsular were laid down in the period 500 to 400 million years BC. It involved the collision and separation of the American and European tectonic plates, rocks drifting from tropical to temperate latitudes, rock erosion into sand deposited into the seabed, and further geological uplifting to create the basic rock structures we see now. The next era was the first human occupation of the Dale Fort peninsular during the bronze and iron ages, with a promontory fort being built at around 800BC.

More recently in 1852, the Admiralty, alarmed that the French had an armoured, steam powered battleship, built Dale Fort to further defend the Pembroke Dockyard. In the 1890s it was fitted with a Zalinski Pneumatic Dynamite Gun, fortunately never fired in anger.

In 1906 the Admiralty sold the fort for conversion into a private house. It remained thus until WW2 when it was let

to the Ministry of Defence who used it as an anti-aircraft gun site, an observation post, and a base for 'degaussing' ships making them less vulnerable to magnetic mines.

Post WW2 Dale Fort became a Field Studies Centre which hosts groups from schools and universities carrying out practical work in biology and related subjects. It also carries out its own research in Marine Biology.

Tuesday December 8th 'Across the Himalaya – India to China' – Gary Jones

Gary, who has interests such as climbing and caving, took early retirement and started a second career as a Tour Leader of groups wanting to visit remoter locations. This talk was based on two tours which took him from the plains of India to China via Nepal and Tibet showing the changes in landscape, climate, architecture, religion and ethnicity as he encountered.

In India he visited Jodhpur and Jaipur with their Hindu temples, Agra with the Taj Mahal built in Mughal style, and the Golden Temple of the Sikhs in Amritsar. As he moved northwards he entered the Himalayan foothills with the snow covered Himalayan wall in the background. People's faces became darker and, as you entered Nepal, Hindu and Buddhist temples were both evident. The Buddhist temple in Katmandu was decorated with Buddhist demons and prayer wheels and was permeated with the smell of rancid butter candles. More sombrely Gary explained that many buildings he showed us had been destroyed in the recent earthquake.

Moving into Tibet, the roads quickly deteriorated. The Group had to walk but with pack horses to carry their gear. On the highest passes, altitude sickness was a problem for both people and ponies, and yaks became the beasts of burden. Buildings were now made with mud bricks and thatched roofs which coped well given the paucity of rain at altitude. However

limited water caused the locals to not wash and consequently they stank.

Finally in China Buddhism was being practised. Mao had closed the temples but they were now in use again.

Tuesday January 12th 2016 – 'Grand Teton and Yellowstone NP' – Graham Morgan-

Graham and Daphne, inveterate travellers, claimed a first when giving a joint talk about their US holiday in rugged North Western States of Wyoming and Montana. After a flight to Chicago, they flew on to Jackson Hole in Wyoming, altitude 6500 feet, which is a valley dominated by surrounding mountain ranges. Its claim to fame is that it hosts an elk refuge centre.

After hiring a big comfortable car and getting a good night's sleep in Jackson, they set off into the Grand Teton National Park. Here they had their first sightings of bison and elk. Both are very large animals which have an automatic right of way on roads, for the mutual benefit of the animals and the cars. They drove on to Yellowstone, whose landscape was forged by volcanos and the famous geysers. These are a major visitor attraction and especially 'Old Faithful' which has a reliable timetable for 'blowing'. Other memorable sights in their travels in Yellowstone were dramatic waterfalls and the Snake River canyon which nearly matches the Grand Canyon. There were more elk and bison but no sightings of wolves and bears which are also resident.

Their trip also included Little Bighorn, the site of 'Custer's Last Stand', the last native Indian (Cheyenne and Arapo) victory over the US Cavalry. The battlefield is now a well preserved memorial recognising the losses on both sides.

Graham and Daphne finished with some pictures of a more recent holiday in the tranquil Scilly Isles; no mountains, no geysers and no bison.

Tuesday February 9th – ‘The Friendly Invasion – American GIs in Pembrokeshire during 1943-44’ – Gareth Mills

Gareth, a History teacher, became an enthusiastic volunteer with the Sunderland Trust in Pembroke Dock when he retired. The 70th anniversary of D-Day prompted him to gather local stories about the impact of 2000 American GIs of the 110th Infantry Regiment arriving unannounced in Pembrokeshire in October 1943; how they and the locals reacted to each other and some of the consequent personal outcomes. The GIs arrival caused initial consternation as they marched at dead of night from Pembroke Dock station to Llanion Barracks. Some residents thought they were German parachutists because of the shape of their helmets. However they were quickly accepted, even if there were occasional fights with locals in pubs arising from the over ostentatious display of wealth by some GIs, and the attractiveness of this to local girls.

In turn the GIs were appalled at the living standards of the locals arising from food rationing. They struggled with the problem of the blackout, finding it difficult to get back from pub to barracks in total darkness. What they really enjoyed though were the local fish and chips. Black GIs, who were in segregated into their own camps, were surprised at the willingness of local pub landlords to serve them.

Inevitably there were liaisons between local girls and GIs. Around 40 GI marriages took place in the 6 months the 110th were here and other marriages took place after the war. In April 1944 they left as suddenly as they arrived. They were involved in some bloody battles before the war ended and a significant number never made it back to the US.

Tuesday March 8th – ‘Haverfordwest Tudor Traders House’ – Gerallt Nash

Gerallt, who comes from St Davids, was Senior Curator of Historic Buildings at the St Fagans Country Museum near Cardiff.

His connection to the Traders House started in 1982. Cafe owners in Quay Street wanted to alter an old building behind the café. George Yeomans, a founding PNTA member, inspected it in his Planning role and decided it warranted further checks. He involved St Fagans’ specialists who undertook a detailed analysis. They concluded the basic structure was 16th century; a vaulted cellar on the ground floor with living accommodation above. Different doors and windows had clearly been added or removed over the centuries as its use varied. Initial thoughts suggested a ‘Tower House’, but further checks indicated it had been ‘semi –detached’ with its other half being removed later. It was decided it was worthy of a place at St Fagans, the first Pembrokeshire building to have this honour. The building was meticulously dismantled and moved with every piece being labelled before storage.

The reconstruction was based on how the building would have looked in 1580, being part of an urban lifestyle of commerce and trading in the thriving maritime town of Haverfordwest. Gerallt displayed town maps and 16th century records to show the breadth of trading locations and products involved. Much of the building’s historic structure could be deduced from the earlier analysis but features like the original roof, long disappeared, were built in the 1580’s style. Fortunately, St Fagans was given a load of Pembrokeshire slate which added to its authenticity. The resurrected building was topped out in 2011.

SUMMER PROGRAMME 2016

Tuesday April 12th – AGM followed by a talk from **Mike Greenslade, the NT Stackpole Manager** on ‘A year on the Stackpole Estate’.

Mike joined the NT in Pembrokeshire a year ago at Stackpole and will talk about his experiences, both delights and challenges.

PNTA TOUR TO NORTHUMBRIA MAY 15TH – 19TH

Day 1 will take us to the Mercure Hotel near Washington County Durham with a lunch stop en route at **Tatton Park**, a NT Property in Cheshire.

On Day 2 we will visit the majestic **Durham Cathedral** followed by a trip to the Open Air **Beamish Village Museum**.

Day 3 will take in **Alnwick Castle and Garden**, followed by a trip to **Cragside (NT)**.

On Day 4 our first stop is **Hadrian's Wall**, near Hexham, and in the afternoon we will visit **Seaton Delaval Hall** a recently acquired NT Property.

Day 5 will take us back to Pembrokeshire with a lunch stop at a NT Property.

Cost: £320 if sharing room, £360 if single room.

There may still be some vacancies when you receive the Newsletter. If you are interested, please call Dick Coggins on 01437 781145 or email dick.coggins@hotmail.com.

SUMMER EXCURSIONS

Because the PNTA Tour is taking place in May, Tim Sims-Williams has organized two trips this summer, as follows:-

Thursday 16th June-Llanerchaeron (NT) and Aberaeron, Ceredigion

Llanerchaeron was a self sufficient small 18th Century 'Welsh Minor gentry' estate and working farm with a house designed by John Nash (Website- www.llanerchaeron@nationaltrust.org.uk or page 377 of NT Handbook). It is situated in the R. Aeron valley a few miles from Aberaeron. On arrival at about 1100 we will be given a general guided tour (about 90 minutes) followed by a tour of the walled gardens by the Head Gardener (about 1 hour). The cost of the tours is included in the costs. There will then be spare time to visit the house, the farm and go for a walk as well as have a 'light lunch' by the River Aeron (Menu will be forwarded to all attending). At about 1700,

we will take the coach to the harbour at Aberaeron for a walk around and then meet up at 'The New Celtic Cafe, 8 Market Street (web site www.newceltic.co.uk) at 1800 for a fish & chips or other meal if desired before heading for home.

Cost £25.00 per head.

Thursday 14th July-Visit to National Waterfront Museum, Swansea and River Tawe Boat Trip

After what in PNTA terms is a relatively short coach trip, we will be dropped off at the Leisure Centre in Swansea at about 10.30. After a short walk to the National Waterfront Museum, there will be a 'welcome introduction' (15 mins) before free time to tour the museum. We will then have lunch (if required) at the museum's cafe (10% discount). At 1400 we join the Swansea Community Boat (Copper Jack) - an enclosed floating Classroom for a river cruise up the River Tawe with commentary describing Swansea's past. If we have enough takers we will have the boat to ourselves but otherwise will join any other takers (charge included) The boat will return about 1530 with free time to visit Dylan Thomas Museum, Plantasia, Swansea Castle etc. At 17.00 rejoin the coach for a drive along the waterfront to Mumbles with its eating facilities and then return to Pembrokeshire. Cost £30.00 per head.

Please have your National Trust Card with you for free entry to NT Properties. Entry fees for non-NT properties are included in the cost where indicated. There is a booking form attached to the Newsletter.

WALKS

For those who have not been on our walks before, they last about an hour and a half and are not arduous. They seek to inform as much as exercise us. Assume that a pub supper has been organised and that details will be given on the day. We shall not try to predict our very changeable weather but meet at 6.30pm and decide then if we can

proceed. If not, we will just enjoy the pub supper. However if you need an earlier outlook as to whether the walk is likely to take place, call 01646 661344 on the day.

May 24th – Gupton Farm – Chris Oliver

We last visited Gupton Farm 3 years ago when its use had just been taken over by the Trust. Since then access paths have been developed, sustainable grazing regimes introduced, an attractive bird hide built and renovation work started on the farm buildings. Chris will talk to us about what has been learnt in this time and what the future plans are.

Meet Freshwater West (main) carpark at 6.30pm.

June 14th – Castell Farm, nr. Fishguard - Andrew Tuddenham

Castell Farm has been in Trust ownership about 15 years. We last visited just after it was obtained by the Trust. It now consists of holiday cottage and farm situated on a beautiful stretch of coastline. Andrew will explain to us how the property has been adapted and walk us around the area..

Meet Castell at 6.30 pm.

Please note: Castell is along a sideroad on the left of the A487 Fishguard to Dinas road. The turning has a sign to the Fishguard Bay Caravan Park. Parking at Castell is very limited and we will need a parking plan. Let me know by June 13th if you plan to attend (01646 661344 or jimprice@dial.pipex.com). When I know the numbers I will organise parking arrangements with Andrew and will call you to let you know where you can park. Clearly car sharing will ease the problem.

July 19th – Southwood Estate (Trefrane) – Matt Thompson

We have not visited Southwood for some years. In previous visits we focussed our attention on the farm house and farm yard renovations. This time we will look at the work that has been carried out on the wider estate in terms of hedging, field use and

woodland management, and on the ecological effect this is having.

Meet at the Maidenhall Car Park at 6.30pm.

The Maidenhall carpark is on the coast road between Newgale and Nolton Haven, about half way between the two.

NT NEWSBOARD

National Trust staff have provided reports on activities and changes at the local NT locations. It demonstrates the tremendous amount of work being carried out in developing the sites and providing a programme of events to enable people to enjoy them.

Stackpole

Chris Oliver reports:

Storm damage

Recently, whenever I write a piece for a newsletter, I always seem to be mentioning storm damage, so here we go again! Finally after a long hard slog the windblown timber from Castle Dock and Cheriton Bottom has been removed. Over 2,724 16ft long logs have been taken from the woodland which equates to 1,600m³. To put that into perspective, our biggest grand firs measured about 3 m³, but that's enough about storm damage.

Rose Garden

This winter the ranger team have worked extremely hard in soaking wet conditions to clear the rose garden in Lodge Park Woods. The aim is to create a much more open environment populated by mature specimen trees; these include a Strawberry tree, Gingko, Cork Oak, Indian Bean Tree, Tulip Tree and a Katsura. The majority of these trees were growing in LPW at some point throughout its history, although I admit to adding the Katsura in to the mix. This unusual tree emits a strong scent of burnt sugar in the autumn and contributes to the multi-sensory experience I hope people will get when they go to LPW.

The trees were all purchased thanks to your generous donation, which will also be used to rebuild the entrances to the rose garden,

once we have decided what material to use. This may seem obvious when you consider the majority of the walls surrounding the rose garden are limestone, but if you examine the main entrance (by the rose arbor) you will notice that the limestone has given way to brick. The pillars either side of the north eastern entrance of the rose garden are also due some attention and again, at first glance, these seem to be constructed of dressed limestone, but on closer inspection they turn out to be concrete. The question is what material should be used?

The rain has really taken its toll on the estate in 2015, and we have a lot of work to do to restore presentation levels to a standard that I am satisfied with, but we will get there!

Castlemartin Corse

One place where the rain has had a very positive impact is Gupton Farm and Castlemartin Corse. Two out of three newly dug dune slacks were flooded this winter and I hope that these will evolve to become valuable habitats.

Over the winter we have had a good amount of bird activity in the area too, including Marsh Harriers which have been spotted displaying with each other. I am hopeful that in the future they may well breed on site which would be nothing short of amazing!

Although water levels have been high on the Corse they have not been of the proportions of previous years when surrounding farmland was severely impacted. This is primarily due to the outflow pipe that was installed in 2015; it has weathered many storms and high tides and is still going strong!!

Otter update

Finally on some other water-related news, I was very excited to have seen some footage from a remote camera of an otter on the eastern arm of the Bosherton Lakes. Although there has been a lot of evidence (such as fish scales, spraints and prints) that there are still otter on the lakes

and the beach, the animals themselves have been very elusive (after all they are wild animals). I must say, it is reassuring to see footage of an otter once again.

North Pembrokeshire

Andrew Tuddenham, Manager North Pembrokeshire has sent us this report:

Winter work 2015-16

Simply put, it rained a lot.

After a fine start to autumn we made some headway with the winter programme of firebreak cutting around the St David's commons. This yielded a stockpile of heathland bedding for the housed cattle at Southwood farm. But one storm blurred into the next and by December most of the commons had become too boggy for the tractor.

The land at Southwood farm also suffered. A legacy of old field drains and limited shed capacity struggled to cope with the exceptional winter rains. Out-wintering the Welsh Black cattle at the farm proved to be a real headache and it was a huge disappointment to have to cancel the Christmas Fair and the Easter egg hunt event due to a total lack of dry land for parking. When the farm dries out enough in the coming months (it surely must do) we'll be putting in a hefty scheme of contract work to repair the poached ground and re-establish an effective drainage network in key fields around the farmstead.

Other winter work has included:

- Conifer clearance and replanting with broadleaved trees at Abermawr woods
- A heathland bedding open day for farmers at Southwood Farm, organised through the Pembrokeshire Wildfire Group
- Willow scrub clearance around the Goodwick commons, on Ciliau Moor and Waun Fynnon Clun
- Storm damage repairs to trees at Little Milford woods, Solva and around the Southwood Estate

- New pony and cattle grazing licences on the St Davids commons
- Beach cleans on several North Pembrokeshire beaches with Preseli Venture and Keep Wales Tidy.

Runwayskiln Youth Hostel

We're preparing detailed floor plans for a scheme that involves the return of the farmhouse to a residential dwelling for manager accommodation, the conversion of one of the outbuildings to a small café, the retention of simple bunkhouse / B&B accommodation in other buildings, and the creation of discreet parking areas for residents and bunkhouse guests.

As I write, we're in the midst of some community drop-in sessions at Marloes, where locals can see the plans for this proposal and provide feedback. The next stage will be to submit a planning application for various changes of use of the buildings and then put the resulting scheme out to tender to find a new leaseholder later in the year.

Progress at Southwood Farm

In March we submitted a planning application to Pembrokeshire Coast National Park Authority for a scheme to improve visibility and safety at the farm entrance and create a small visitor car park at the farm. The plan involves the re-alignment of a length of roadside hedgebank and the relocation of the pair of stone entrance pillars to a new position a little further up the farm track. The car park would accommodate 33 cars, including 8 spaces dedicated for the future bunkhouse development. This would enable us to open up the next phase of footpath from the farm, through the woods and out to the coast path around Newgale.

Newgale coastal adaptation

Newgale is now well known to be a vulnerable area at risk of coastal erosion. Pembrokeshire County Council are looking at the options for the A487 road link through Newgale, behind the shingle bank. The shingle bank may only provide viable

protection to the road for another 10-20 years.

We've worked in partnership with PCC during the consultation stage of their adaptation plan to provide feedback on the proposed transport planning objectives and route options.

A number of possible route options would affect National Trust land including Southwood Farm, Wood Farm and Pontpren Farm. All the options can be viewed in the Newgale Adaptation Plan on the Pembrokeshire County Council website.

Having reviewed the routes, we indicated to PCC that the inner routes were not sustainable, while the outer routes were not practical and did not provide a realistic solution. At this stage we await to see what the chosen route option might be, and have indicated that this must avoid or at least minimise adverse impacts on the natural environment. The results of the latest evaluation are due in September.

We have suggested that there is value in a green travel plan to help with visitor access and offset any loss of parking, with Pembrokeshire Greenways and the Puffin Shuttle playing greater roles in the area. As the Wales Coast Path also shares the existing route of the A487 alongside Newgale beach, we have asked that this is taken into consideration and a route is maintained for users.

Tudor Merchant's House

Angela Jones reports:

Successful 2015

The Tudor Merchant's House was very busy in 2015 – over 1,000 more people visited us and came to dress up, sit at the merchant's table, read the superstitions and have a great time. The visitor comment card reports were overwhelmingly positive and the herb garden, despite the rain, continues to look good although it is small. The Mayor of Tenby John Rapi, along with his two mace bearers visited us in the summer and planted a red rose in the herb garden. We now have red and white roses – truly Tudor! There are already leaves

appearing on the rose and we have high hopes that it will bloom as well as it did last year.

Staff and volunteers also worked very hard to sell Trust raffle tickets last year, with the income raised helping support our work at the Tudor Merchant's House. Our hard effort paid off, we were the top property in Wales per head of visitor. This helped us to purchase a new rush mat for the first floor – and it looks lovely.

Plans for 2016

We are hoping to put this year's raffle money towards a guidebook for the property – lots of interesting Tudor Merchant's House pictures and information. It has been a while since we had a guidebook and it will be a nice selling point we hope!

We are also having a 'mini refit' on the top floor and have taken down the curtains which we don't think were being very helpful in drying out the walls. There is now a great atmosphere there and light – and sometimes sunshine – streams into the house.

The bed hangings on the top floor will also be taken down soon and replaced with woollen curtains which will show how the merchant would have dressed his bed. Our lovely volunteers will be busy making these up as soon as the fabric arrives – please come along and see them.

This year, we will also be lighting the fire in the kitchen as often as possible in term-time. Come along and soak up the atmosphere, we would love to see you at the house soon... there is always plenty to do and find out about.

Colby Woodland Garden

Steve Whitehead reports:

Craig-y-Borion Farm

With Craig-y-Borion farm recently vacated, National Trust is taking the opportunity to evaluate the wildlife, conservation and access value of this important local farm, which covers the land between two wooded stream-valleys.

The information will be used to write best practice into new farm tenancy agreements, to safeguard and improve the wildlife and conservation value of the farmland. Some fields have been identified as too steep for either crops, or intensive grazing, (which could cause top-soil erosion down into the Amroth stream) and these will be set aside for the creation of new mixed native woodland. Sloping fields which drain less steeply towards the valley will continue to be ear-marked for permanent pasture. A 'zero in-put' policy, prohibiting the use of fertilisers that harm water quality, will be applied to the most vulnerable areas.

A new permissive footpath is going in, linking Craig-y-Borion woods with Little Craig-y-Borion woods, improving the network of footpaths across the estate and offering an even greater variety of walks.

The farmhouse itself needs substantial work, and is likely to be unoccupied for some time while renovation takes place. The work is part of a massive program across the whole of the UK, as the Trust seeks to evaluate all of its in-hand and tenanted farmland, to bring as much of it as possible into its best possible condition for wildlife conservation, sustainable productivity, water quality and recreational access.

Little Craig-y-Borion Farm

At long last the old derelict farmhouse of Little Craig-y-Borion has come back to life. The rear extension has been rebuilt, the building has been re-roofed in new slate, the new windows are in and work on the interior is nearly complete. The ancient A-frame timbers of the roof have all been treated and saved, and the re-roofing process has revealed that even the much newer rafters were of great age, not machined, but pit-sawn by hand.

The new orchard next to the building is taking shape too with old Welsh apple varieties planted by volunteers, including Gwell na Mil, Nant Gwrtheryn, Marged Nicolas, Croen Mochyn, Cox Cymraeg and St Cecilia.

The re-building project has been designed to incorporate special habitats for the bats that had moved into the derelict building. There are two new specially engineered bat roosting lofts, one over the new extension and the other in a re-roofed outbuilding which will be used as a wood-store. Even the fascia boards on the farmhouse have specially designed gaps behind them, just the right size for roosting pipistrelle bats. The building will be heated by wood from trees from the estate woodlands, and by solar hot water heating panels already installed. It will also have its own water supply from a borehole which descends through 266ft of purifying limestone. After all the hard work has finished, we're really looking forward to welcoming our first residential conservation volunteers in April 2016.

Colby Car-Park

The new car park at Colby is almost complete, and will be up and running for 2016. The sensitive new development will double the parking capacity at Colby and ease the heavy pressure at busy weekends and events. While the car park itself is almost done, staff at Colby still have lots of work to do; finishing off the access paths, planting up the car-park banks, and installing new signage and benches.

N.T. SPRING/SUMMER EVENTS:

Stackpole

Booking for events call 01646 661425

Wildlife walk

4 May, 1 June, 6 July, 3 August and 7 September 2016 6am – 9am

Join our Volunteer Rangers Jim and Marilyn who know all about the wildlife and history of the Stackpole Estate. Explore the lakes, find the otters' playground and warm up afterwards with a breakfast bap and tea or coffee. £8 per person Booking essential

50 things climbing challenge

31 May, 4, 11, 18 and 25 August 2016

11am – 3pm

Head to Stackpole Quay Quarry and reach new heights with our climbing wall challenge. Equipment provided.

£5 per person

Barafundle Bay trail athlon

12 June 2016 10am

Come and run, swim and get muddy at the first Barafundle Bay trail athlon.

Price tbc, check website for further information. Booking essential

Dads go mad

19 June 2016

11am – 2pm

Treat dad to an adventure in the great outdoors! Learn traditional hunter-gatherer skills like fire-making and bushcraft activities.

£5 per person

Booking essential

Scything experience

23 July 2016 10am – 3pm

Learn a traditional farming technique with our trained rangers and enjoy a ploughman's picnic lunch.

£15 per person

Booking essential

Bat walks

9, 16 and 23 August 2016

8.30pm – 10.30pm

Join our ranger for a dusk walk to discover Stackpole's special residents.

£3 per person

Booking essential

Tudor Merchant's House

Tudor traditions

28 May 2016 – 5 June 2016 11am – 5pm

Step back in time and be a Tudor for the day with traditional games, costumes and chores.

Free event, normal admission charges apply

Tenby Male Choir

11 August 2016

8pm at St Mary's

Church, Tudor Square

Enjoy an evening of music with Tenby Male Choir at this fundraising concert in

support of the Tudor Merchant's House and Tenby Museum.
Tickets are £7 (£5 for associate members of the choir)

Tudor superstitions

29 August 2016 11am – 5pm
The 15th century was all about superstitions, from spoons to sleeping patterns to ward off wicked spirits. Come and uncover the Tudors' quirky traditions for yourself.
Free event, normal admission charges apply

Colby Woodland Garden

Booking essential for all events on 01834 811885

'If these woods could talk' guided tour 9 and 30 June, 17 and 28 July, 11 August, 15 and 29 September 2016

11am – 12.30pm and 2pm – 3.30pm
What would the picturesque valley at Colby Woodland Garden say if it could talk? Come and investigate with a fully guided tour, exploring the hidden heritage within.
£2 per adult, children free, normal admission charges apply

Twilight walk

7 April, 21 July and 3 August 2016
7pm – 9pm
Discover a surprising variety of woodland wildlife as the light fades and darkness falls on a fully guided one-mile walk with a Pembrokeshire Coast National Park ranger.
£3.50 per adult, £2.50 per child

Pond safari

26 July and 9 August 2016
11am, 1.15pm and 2.15pm
Discover what lies beneath the water at Colby on a fully guided pond dipping safari with a Pembrokeshire Coast National Park ranger. Three sessions followed by a craft activity.
£2 per child, normal admission charges apply

Bug safari

28 July and 11 August 2016
11am, 1.15pm and 2.15pm
Follow a Pembrokeshire Coast National Park ranger on a hunt for Colby's resident bugs, learn how to use a sweep net and record what you find. Three sessions followed by a craft activity.
£2 per child, normal admission charges apply

North Pembrokeshire

Booking for events call 01348 837860

Beach clean at Porthlysgi

27 April 2016 2.30pm – 4.30pm
Help us care for the coast by joining in with a beach clean at Porthlysgi. The event is being run in partnership with Keep Wales Tidy and Surfers Against Sewage.
Free event, meet at Upper Treginnis Farm.

Birds for beginners at Marloes

4 May 2016 10am – 12pm
Get a perfect introduction to the birdlife of this special place on a guided two-mile walk with a National Trust ranger.
£3 per adult, £1 per child
Booking essential

Dawn chorus walk at Abermawr

7 May 2016 4am – 6am
Enjoy an early morning walk to hear the dawn chorus with our ranger. Listen for woodland birds such as finches and blackcap, marshland species like reed bunting and sedge warbler. You may even catch a glimpse of an otter!
£5 per adult, free for children
Booking essential

Coastal wild flowers at Porth Clais

27 May 2016 10am – 2.30pm
A chance to discover the beautiful coastal flowers on the Treginnis Peninsula with a guided six-mile walk.
£4 per adult, £2 per child
Booking essential

Camp out at Southwood Farm

1/2 June 2016 7pm – 12 noon

5/6 August 5pm – 12 noon

Be one of the first to camp in the wild on the Southwood Estate! Spend the evening with one of our rangers, have a camp fire and maybe a night stroll to see what wildlife is around.

£10 per person Booking essential

Crab catching at Solva Harbour

25 July 2016 10am – 12 noon

Get close to the coast with crabbing from Solva Harbour and see if you can get the catch of the day. Lines and bait provided. £2 per line

50 Things at Southwood Farm

28 July and 18 August 2016

10.30am – 3.30pm

Tick off outdoor adventures from our '50 things to do before you're 11 ¾ list' in the wonderful woods and fields of Southwood Farm. There'll be ranger walks, updates on the farm restoration work and refreshments too.

Free, donations welcome

Seal pups at Martin's Haven

31 August 2016 12 noon – 2pm

10 September 2016 3pm – 5pm

See the annual arrival of seals and their pups below the cliffs of the Deer Park on a two-mile guided walk with a National Trust ranger.

£3 per adult, £1 per child

Booking essential

PNTA WEBSITE

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

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.

MEMBERSHIP SUBSCRIPTIONS

Your membership subscriptions were due for renewal on Jan 1st 2016. We have notified, individually, members whom our records do not show as having renewed. 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.

OFFICERS AND COMMITTEE

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

CHAIRMAN* Dick Coggins
Tel: 01437 781145

VICE-CHAIRMAN* Jim Price
& WALKS Tel: 01646 661344

TREASURER* Margret Price
Tel: 01646 661344

SECRETARY* Annie Weaver
Tel: 01437 762072

MEMBERSHIP SECRETARY

Sheila Ashton
Tel: 01437 731525

TALKS Dr. Arnold Williams
Tel: 01437 720169

TRIPS Tim Sims-Williams
Tel: 01348 811412

P.R. Jane Mason
Tel: 01437 762387

MailChimp Andrew Weaver
Tel: 01437 762072

PNTA ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

The Pembrokeshire National Trust Association will hold its AGM at the Picton Centre, Haverfordwest on Tuesday April 12th 2016 commencing at 7.30pm.

AGENDA

1. Apologies for absence
2. Chairman's report
3. Treasurer's report and approval of accounts
4. Appointment of an independent auditor
5. Approval of annual subscriptions to apply to the next AGM
6. Election of officers and other Committee members for the period to the next AGM
7. Donation to the Pembrokeshire National Trust
8. Pembrokeshire National Trust update from Jonathan Hughes
9. Any other business

Following the AGM there will be a talk from **Mike Greenslade, Manager of the Stackpole properties** entitled '**A Year on the Stackpole Estate**'.

Please Note – The minutes of the 2015 AGM will be posted on our Notice Board at the Picton Centre before the meeting.

NOMINATION FORM FOR PNTA COMMITTEE

Name _____

Position sought for election _____
(please write 'General' if just seeking a General position on the Committee)

Proposer _____

Secunder _____

(Nominees, proposers and seconders have to be members of the PNTA)

Please send your form, by Monday April 4th to:

Dick Coggins, Chairman PNTA, Middle Broadmoor Farm, Talbenny, Little Haven,
Haverfordwest. SA62 3XD

Or call him on 01437 781145 if you wish to have further information.

PEMBROKESHIRE NATIONAL TRUST ASSOCIATION
INCOME AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT FOR THE YEAR 1 JANUARY - 31 DECEMBER 2015

	2015	2014
INCOME		
Membership Subscriptions	1265.00	1435.00
Funds generated from Summer outings and Autumn tour	249.80	2208.70
Funds generated from Dylan Thomas Lunch		159.50
Refreshments from Picton Centre	101.81	174.23
Donations	8.00	17.00
Bank interest	<u>2.24</u>	<u>2.38</u>
	<u>1626.85</u>	<u>3996.81</u>
EXPENDITURE		
Donation to National Trust	3000.00	2000.00
Donations for Speakers	60.00	100.00
Hire of Picton Centre	245.00	140.00
Donation to Haverfordwest Cricket Club	0.00	30.00
Administration	302.83	347.51
PAVs Subscription	30.00	30.00
	<u>2010.98</u>	<u>2647.51</u>
	<u>2010.98</u>	<u>1349.30</u>

BALANCE SHEET AS AT 31 DECEMBER 2015

LIABILITIES		£
Accumulated Fund b/f	5830.98	246.36
Surplus/Loss for year	<u>-2010.98</u>	<u>3573.64</u>
	<u>3820.00</u>	<u>3820.00</u>
ASSETS		
Cash at Bank - Community a/c		
Cash at Business Premium a/c		

Signed



(Margaret Price - Hon Treasurer)

I certify that I have examined the above accounts for the year ended 31 December 2015 and found them to be correct and in accordance with the books and records for the Pembrokehire National Trust Associations

Signed



(P L Evans ACIB)

Date

20/01/

2016

Pembrokeshire National Trust Association

2016 Summer Day Trips booking Form

If you wish to go on any or all of the trips, please complete the attached form and return together with a cheque payable to PNTA for the appropriate amount to:
Tim Sims-Williams, Llygad-Yr Haul, Dinas Cross, SA42 0UW

For further information regarding the Trips, please telephone Tim on 01348 811412.

Name _____

Address _____

Post Code _____ Telephone Number _____

E-mail _____

Thursday June 16th –Llanerchaeron and Aberaeron

Number of Places _____ @ £25 Amount enclosed _____

Thursday July 14th –Swansea centre including River River Tawe Boat trip and Mumbles

Number of Places _____ @ £30 Amount enclosed _____

Total enclosed _____

Picking up points will be arranged at Newport bus depot, Dinas, Fishguard/Letterston, Haverfordwest bus station, Pembroke Dock Waterloo R/A, Kilgetty, St Clears at times to be notified nearer the date.

I/We wish to be picked up at _____