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PEMBROKESHIRE NATIONAL TRUST ASSOCIATION

NEWSLETTER No. 41 MARCH 2017

FROM YOUR CHAIRMAN

Greetings to established members and a warm welcome to those who have recently joined.

As spring beckons we can look back on a varied and stimulating series of winter talks, covering wildlife, literature, history and travel. Mid season, we were “gazumped” when there was a change in the process of booking the Picton Centre, and we lost our long established evening meeting place. To minimise disruption with speakers, and to find somewhere with adequate parking, we switched to Crundale Community Hall for afternoon meetings. Fortunately, we continue to have good attendances. (Don’t forget if you miss a talk, reports go up soon after on the website pembsnta.org.uk, in the “latest news and pictures” section.). Many thanks to Arnold Williams for again arranging the speakers.

It is sad to report the deaths of Jill Sims-Williams, Joan John and Brian Stubbs, over recent months. We will miss them at our activities, and our sympathy goes to their families.

Justin Albert, the Director of the National Trust in Wales, has asked to join us for our AGM, in April, and we look forward to welcoming him and hearing about developments in the principality.

Following the successful tour of Northumberland, last year, our trip to Yorkshire, this May, is fully booked. Feel free to let us know, if you would like to go on the reserve list.

Tim Sims-Williams has arranged two summer trips. The tour of the Royal Mint

comes recommended by other groups that have been. It is a few years since the PNTA has visited Dyffryn NT. The house is now open, and there is an active ongoing programme of alterations in the gardens, looking to emulate how things used to be.

The river trip is timed to coincide with an extreme high tide, allowing us to get up to Haverfordwest. The boat offers some cover in case of inclement weather. The previous river trip was well supported, so book early - it could be a sell-out.

Doubtless, Jim Price has lined up some interesting summer evening strolls, with the option to progress to a local hostelry.

The next season of winter talks will still be at Crundale Hall, with the first on the afternoon of Thursday 7th September.

For October, a lunch meeting has been arranged, to be held at Lamphey Court. Our guest speaker, Richard Turner of CADW, will tell us about the bishops and their palaces. It may seem a while away, but the September Newsletter would not give enough notice, and we would value an early indication of interest in the event. (See the booking form for more details.)

Thanks to your support of our activities, we are able to offer Pembrokeshire National Trust £3000 towards local projects, and they have come up with a shortlist of ideas.

Finally, I would like say a big thank you to all the committee members for their input across the year.

If you would like to help us, either on or off the committee, please get in touch.

Andrew Weaver

PNTA GIFT TO PEMBROKESHIRE NATIONAL TRUST

We have been able to donate £3000 to the NT this year. We have chosen to split the donation between three projects put forward by the Trust:

£1000 towards wild flower seeds for Colby/Craig y Borion

£1000 towards Interpretation Boards for the Bronze Age Hut Circle on Stackpole Warren

£1000 for Interpretation Boards for the café being developed in the former Runwayskilyn Youth Hostel at Marloes.

REPORT ON WINTER PROGRAMME TALKS

Tuesday October 11th – ‘The Life of Captain Francis Cromie’ – Roy Bainton

Francis Cromie was born in Ireland in 1882, the son of a serving British Army Officer, but grew up and went to school in Pembrokeshire. He joined the Navy on leaving school and saw his first action in the Boxer Rebellion in China in 1900. He was already in command of a submarine aged 24. In 1915 he was sent to Reval (Tallinn in Estonia today) in submarine E19 to assist our Russian allies in fighting Germany. E19 was quickly in action and in October 1915 sank 5 German ships in one day. Russia awarded him with their equivalent of the VC. In the winter, as the Baltic froze over, Cromie and his men were billeted in Russian ships alongside Russian sailors. The glaring difference in treatment of ordinary sailors by the two Navies was very apparent and Cromie worked hard to improve the lot of the Russian seamen. In Spring 1917, the Russian Revolution started. Russian warships mutinied and many officers were murdered. When the Bolsheviks took over the revolution, they signed a peace treaty with the Germans which committed them to hand over British warships in their ports. Cromie scuttled his flotilla of submarines rather than do this. He opted to stay in St Petersburg as Naval Attache at the British Embassy, not least because of an affair

with a Russian Countess. On August 31st 1918 the Cheka (later KGB) attacked the Embassy and Cromie was shot dead defending it. As his funeral cortege passed along the River Neva, Russian sailors spontaneously formed ranks and saluted him in recognition of the help he had given them.

Tuesday November 8th – ‘The Titanic, ‘Ship of Dreams’ and its Welsh Links’ – Tony Waters

Titanic was built in Belfast to tap into the lucrative transatlantic market. It was dubbed ‘unsinkable’ because of its structure of watertight compartments. Sadly however there were only enough lifeboats for about half of the people on board.

Coincidences played a part in Titanic’s fate. Its maiden voyage was delayed as a coal strike made it borrow coal from other ships. This also caused there to be fewer ships sailing in its vicinity which could have helped in rescue when the disaster occurred. The Titanic had been warned that there were icebergs on its route. However the look-out only saw ‘the one’ when it was very close as the binocular cabinet was accidentally locked. A Gwent radio enthusiast picked up the distress call in his garden shed but could not communicate with nearby ships as their radios were turned off at night time.

Tony discussed the fate of some of the Welsh people on board, most of whom lost their lives. However fifth officer Harold Lowe, from Barmouth, came away from the disaster as a hero. He had carried out practices at lowering lifeboats, and efficiently launched his when the iceberg struck. Others were launched underfilled but their occupants refused to pick up survivors in the sea for fear of being capsized. Harold made sure his rescue craft was suitably used, transferring passengers to less full craft and then going back for more.

Tuesday December 13th ‘Pembrokeshire Heritage’ – Edward Perkins

Heritage is a wide subject and Edward focussed his talk on three people; St David, Giraldus Cambrensis (Gerald of Wales) and Henry Tudor (King Henry V11th). Each left a remembrance that is special to Pembrokeshire.

St David, was born and died in the 6th century. He founded a religious settlement on the site of the current Cathedral but also travelled through Europe as a leader of the Celtic Church. He was declared a saint for his holiness and good works and over time was recognised as the Patron Saint of Wales. St Davids became a major site for pilgrimages and even William the Conqueror felt obliged to visit. The cathedral remains a majestic monument in our midst.

Gerald was born in Manorbier in the 12th century. He was Norman but his maternal grandmother, the infamous Nest, was a Welsh princess. Gerald entered the Church. In 1188 he toured Wales recruiting for the 3rd Crusade and wrote two books describing his travels which give the first real account of Wales. Gerald cherished his Welshness. His ambition was to become Bishop of St Davids and gain independence for the Welsh Church. His Welsh sympathies twice made English kings reject his appointment.

Henry Tudor was born in Pembroke Castle in 1457. His mother Margaret Beaufort, a descendent of John of Gaunt, gave him a remote claim to the English throne. Henry survived the slaughter of Royal claimants during the Wars of the Roses but from 1471 lived in exile in Brittany. In 1485 he became King Henry 7th after defeating Richard 3rd at the Battle of Bosworth. His successors, Henry 8th, Edward 6th, ‘Bloody Mary’ and Good Queen Bess have become perhaps the most famous Royal House in history. Their lives have been recounted in operas, plays, films, TV series and books, and it all started in Pembroke Castle.

Tuesday January 10th 2017 – ‘Birds and Wildlife of Costa Rica’ – Julian Cremona-

Julian is a former head of the Dale Fort Field Centre and retired five years ago. This has allowed him to travel to places such as Madagascar and Costa Rica to look at their ecology. He is also a keen photographer as he demonstrated with the many pictures of his latest trip to Costa Rica.

Costa Rica is a small country in Central America. In 1949 it decided to abolish its Army and to spend much of the money saved to protecting its wildlife. With only 1% of the world’s landmass, it is home to 5% of its biodiversity. 40% of its landmass is covered by protected rain forests, some at sea level but some mountainous. It has both Atlantic and Pacific sea coasts, again with their own ecosystems.

Julian landed at the capital San Jose, which is in the centre of the country. He then travelled to the Atlantic coast which he could only do by river as there were no roads in that direction. Travelling by river was fun but you were at risk if you dangled your hand in the river. In practice, river taxis were the best way to travel when they were available because the roads were terrible.

Julian showed us several hundred slides in his talk covering mammals, birds, amphibians, reptiles, insects and indigenous plants. The brightness and diversity of colour was amazing. Sadly there were too many to catalogue in this report.

Tuesday February 14th – ‘Sails around Wales – A Voyage around the National Trust in Wales’ – Richard Neale

The voyage was part of the 50th anniversary celebrations for the Neptune Campaign, which was set up in 1965 to enable the NT to buy unspoilt areas of coastline and protect them for future generations. Richard is the NT Wales Coast Project Manager responsible for working with local Rangers to implement its strategy for the 157 miles of Welsh

coast it owns. He and John Whitely, a Glan Faenol Ranger who owned a yacht, sailed around our coast to visit the 133 coastal properties and meet local NT staff. In addition to protecting the sites, the NT manages them to increase their biodiversity. Those of us who have been on Summer walks led by local NT rangers know that the key to this is the right grazing regime using cattle, ponies and sheep. However the NT increasingly has to look at the impact of rising seas levels on its coastal properties. Locally Abereididi, Newgale and Freshwater West have, or will need, to be managed as the sea breaks through the existing defences. Planning this requires communication, not just with local staff but also tenant farmers and the wider community.

Richard also talked about the voyage itself and some of the difficult areas of coastline that had to be navigated. After getting grounded on the River Dee, he and John had the excitement of navigating the races between various islands and the adjacent shore. It made him understand that the sea is the master of what happens along the coast.

Tuesday March 14th – ‘The Trail of the Tudors – from Rhos to Bosworth’ – Linda Asman

The Tudor family originated in the Rhos area of North Wales. The Welsh designated their family connections by ‘ap’ meaning ‘son of’ rather than by a surname, thus the surname Tudor, derived Welsh name Tudur, did not become used until the 14th century. The family first rose to prominence in the 13th century when Enyfed Fychan became Seneschal to Llewellyn the Great, the first Welsh monarch to be called Prince of All Wales. Enyfed was an excellent administrator and negotiator and was well financially rewarded. His descendents continued to play major parts in Welsh affairs.

In the early 15th century Owain ap Meredith ap Tudur came to the English Court. He fought with Henry V at Agincourt. When a few years afterwards

Henry died, Owain by then Tudor, illegally married Katherine, Henry’s wife. They had two children Edmund and Jasper. In time Henry 6th officially recognised them and made Edmund Earl of Richmond and Jasper Earl of Pembroke. Edmund then married Margaret Beaufort who had a claim to the English throne as a descendent of John of Gaunt, son of Edward 3rd. In 1457 Henry Tudor was born in Pembroke Castle. His life up to the age of 14 was spent in Pembroke and Raglan Castles.

In 1471 the Yorkists beat the Lancastrians at the Battle of Tewksbury. Henry Prince of Wales the son of Henry 6th was killed, and, shortly after, his father was murdered. Henry Tudor was suddenly a potential Lancastrian heir to the throne. Jasper Tudor quickly recognised this and took Henry to exile in Brittany where they lived precarious lives for a further 14 years.

In 1485, with Richard 3rd on the throne, Henry was persuaded to invade England. He landed at Dale and marched to Bosworth where Richard was defeated and killed. Henry was crowned on the battlefield and the Tudor dynasty came into being.

SUMMER PROGRAMME 2017

Tuesday April 11th – AGM followed by a talk from **Justin Albert, the NT Director for Wales** who will talk to us about **‘The Development of the National Trust in Wales’**

PNTA SPRING TOUR to SOUTH YORKSHIRE - Sunday 14th to Thursday 18th MAY 2017

Travelling with Richards Bros, Cardigan, we will go by coach to Harrogate, staying at the Crown Hotel.

On Monday 15th May, following a tour of Ripon Cathedral, we will progress to NT Fountains Abbey and Studley Royal Water Gardens.

The following day there will be the option of free time in Harrogate, or a guided

walking tour of the town. Then some of our party will head for Harlow Carr Gardens (RHS) whilst others will take a coach tour of the area.

On Wednesday we will explore Harewood House and its gardens. Inside, costumes from the TV series "Victoria" are on display. Apart from the impressive terrace garden, some distance from the house is the Himalayan Garden.

Stopping off en route, to and fro, to see NT properties is under consideration, possibly Shugborough (near Stafford) on the way up, and Erddig (near Wrexham) on our return.

At the moment, we are fully booked, for the trip.

If you would like to go on a reserve list, please contact Andrew or Annie on 01646 831323, or e mail andrew.pnta@gmail.com

PNTA Lunch on Friday October 6th at Lamphey Court Hotel

We have not held a PNTA Lunch since our successful 'Dylan Thomas' event some years ago. This year we have decided on a Lunch in October with the theme:

WORK, REST AND PRAY- Three Residences of the Medieval Bishops of St Davids

Our guest speaker will be Richard Turner- Senior Inspector of Ancient Monuments at Cadw, Welsh Government. He will be talking about the Bishops who built their palaces at Lamphey, Llawhaden and St Davids, and their reasons for choosing these locations. He has written a comprehensive book about this for Cadw.

For those able and interested he will, in addition, be taking a group around the ruins of the nearby palace at around 11am. Meet in front of the hotel at 11.00am

We will be sitting down for lunch at 1pm. Details of menu choices will be sent out later. The cost of meal is £28.00 per head - friends are welcome.

There is a Booking Form at the end of the Newsletter.

SUMMER EXCURSIONS

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

Thursday 15th June 2017 - Royal Mint, Llantrisant and Dyffryn House and Gardens (NT)

The Royal Mint at Llantrisant designs and makes our coins and memorials. We plan to arrive about 10.00 and will probably be divided into 2 parties for the following programme: guided tour of the factory (cost inclusive) then free time to explore the exhibition and visit the shop and café before leaving at 12.00. Rejoin the coach and travel to Dyffryn for lunch. If at least 15 of us want the set menu (see Booking Form), this can be prepared in advance enabling us to eat in a reserved location. Members not wanting to do this can use the normal restaurant facilities.

At 1430 gather at advised location for a guided tour of the gardens (cost inclusive) for about an hour, then enjoy free time to tour the house (being refurbished in style) and gardens. We reboard the coach at 17.00 for the journey home.

Cost - £35.00 each. (This includes the £11 fee for the tour of the Royal Mint.). NT members take your cards. Non NT members will need to pay for entry into Dyffryn.

Food not included.

For pickups see booking form.

Tuesday 25th July 2017. Afternoon and evening return Boat Trip on the River Cleddau from Neyland to Haverfordwest with a pre-booked supper at the Bristol Trader.

A really high tide (over 7.00m) is essential for this trip and this has determined the date. The cruiser, which has a cover if it rains, takes 40 people and we are hoping for a dry and warm day. You are advised to bring an extra layer of clothing for the evening which can get chilly on the river even on a warm day.

You will need to get to Neyland using your own or shared transport (SA73 1PY for

those with SatNavs). Turn into Brunel Quay, head towards the Marina, then turn right for Dale Sailing. Park behind Dale Sailing on the quayside.

The River Cruiser will slip at 16.30 (don't be late!) and will take about 2 hours to travel to The Bristol Trader, Haverfordwest up the Western Cleddau. We have allowed an hour for a meal before returning to Neyland with the tide, arriving about 21:30.

This is the only way to see the hidden beauty of this part of Pembrokeshire and should be a great evening out.

Price - £25.00 per head. Food cost is not included. Because of our possible numbers, we will have to order our menu choices before the cruise day. Tim will contact you with copies of the pub menu around the end of June and you will need to forward your choices to him so that he can brief the pub. If you want to go elsewhere that is fine but you must be back by 19.30 to catch the boat.

NB .If you wish to go but do not have transport let Tim know and he will see what he can organize (See Booking Form for his contact details).

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.

SEPTEMBER TALK

Because of the Lunch in October, we have decided to have our first autumn talk in September. **It will be held on the first Thursday of the month in the Crundale Community Hall starting at 2.30pm. Other talks through the season will follow the same pattern.**

September 7th 'The Redcoat Soldier of 1751' – Bill Cainan

Bill was Curator of the Regimental Museum of The Royal Welsh in Brecon He will focus on the Redcoat Soldier of the mid-18th Century – what he wore, what he

was equipped with and how he fought. He is the soldier of the 'Last of the Mohicans' period.

The full Winter Talks Programme will be covered in the Autumn Newsletter.

SUMMER 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 9th – Marloes – Matt Thomson

Starting at Marloes Beach Car Park, we shall first look at the former Youth Hostel at Runwayskilyn to see how it is being adapted for new use by the NT. We will then pass Marloes Mere and have a quick check to see if there are any exotic birds in residence before moving to the coast to look at Ragh Iron Age Fort at Watery Bay. Matt will also talk about work done to develop the heathland in the last few years and point out the coastal flowers that should be coming into bloom. The return will be along the cliffs with splendid views of Marloes beach.

Meet at Marloes Beach carpark at 6.30pm.

June 20th – Colby/Craig y Borion Farms - Steve Whitehead

Craig y Borion Farm has now been taken in-hand by the Trust which is using the opportunity to improve its environmental quality. Steve will show us where a new woodland is being created on an area of marginal land, new areas of wildflower meadows are being established and older ones restored. We will also tour the renovated Little Craig y Borion farmhouse

which provides accommodation for holiday volunteers working on the estate.

Meet at Colby Main Garden Car Park at 6.30pm.

July 11th Eastern Arm lake, Stackpole Warren and Barafundle – Chris Oliver

Chris will lead us down the Eastern Arm lake and on to Stackpole Warren. We will look at the bronze age hut circle and the Devil's Quoit Standing Stone. The route back will take us to Barafundle and Barafundle Woods,

Meet at the Stackpole Centre at 6.30pm.

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:

The last six months had witnessed some considerable transformations on the outer parcels of the estate. The rangers have been working hard over the winter on Lydstep Head, clearing areas of gorse on the headland. The reasons for this were firstly to increase access for the cattle which graze the area so that they can open up harder to reach pieces of land and secondly to attack gorse and other dominant vegetation that was beginning to encroach on the maritime grassland (shortly cropped grassland habitat). It will also give more space for people and cattle to manoeuvre around each other. The rare and unusual species that inhabit the SSSI, including green winged orchid's, chough, wax cap species and various terricolous and calciferous lichen species, will be other beneficiaries..

Cattle have been taken off the land at present. This will allow the headland boundary fence to be replaced. We aim to have this work completed by April so the cows can carry on their sterling work!

Looking to the future we will be continuing to manage gorse encroachment, especially nearer the cliff edges. Our primary aim is to increase opportunities for maritime grassland to establish, therefore creating more feeding opportunities for chough as well as protecting exposed areas where lichen communities have established themselves. Grazing will continue, alongside bracken bruising, which ranger Tom Watkins has been carrying out with colleagues from NRW. Bracken bruising is an effective tool to reduce bracken by rolling it and damaging the plant which will be severely weakened and eventually killed. Consideration was given to diversifying the grazing by adding sheep into the equation. This is something we would love to do to create more structural diversity within the grassland. However the nature of the site does not lend itself to sheep grazing, primarily because access to the cliffs would endanger them. Instead we will look into different methods of creating structural diversity.



Gorse Cutting at Lydstep

Another area of coastal grassland that is and will remain high on the teams list of priorities is Gupton. The site has seen a mixed year, with marsh harrier attempting and failing to nest within the reed beds. Conservation grazing continues to make progress however. In 2017 we will be adjusting the timings of the grazing to prevent the more dominant grassland species becoming too vigorous. Although

fine adjustments are required, the grazing is having a positive effect which is evident through an overall reduction in unwanted grassland species such as couch grass and clover.

I personally am looking forward to spring/summer this year and the arable flora that I hope will be stunning in colour and variety. We have been working with our farming partners to establish arable flora margins which sit next to arable crop. They are cultivated (in this case ploughed as opposed to drilled) and seeded at a reduced seed rate with no inputs. Traditionally arable flora such as fat hen and rampion grew as part of the arable landscape. As agriculture has evolved and become more efficient, the gaps between individual crops that this group of plants have exploited have reduced and they have all but disappeared. The margins that are being created at Gupton aim to recreate this more traditional set up and therefore provide opportunities for arable flora once again.

Gupton farmstead has also been a place where the rangers could often be found throughout the winter. We have carried out a lot of work in preparation for the opening of the campsite and farmhouse on the 10th April, including significant amounts of boundary work and landscaping.

Within the main estate, we have finally finished work in Cheriton Bottom and Castle Dock after the storm damage three years ago. The final trees have been planted and all the necessary wind-blown trees have been cleared. This work marks the beginning of a new chapter for our woodlands where broadleaves will become the dominant tree type, as opposed to conifer. Whilst we will be maintaining conifer stands within the woodland, our aim is to create broad leaf woodlands with trees of a variety of ages, with high percentage of deadwood for saprophytic organisms. It is essential however that a percentage of the conifer elements of woodlands are maintained as they are beneficial to some raptors species. Tracks

have also been improved and a new bridge has been installed by volunteers, led by our own Volunteers Assistant Ranger Andy Jones!

Summer 2017 will be another busy year for the team; amongst other things we will be focusing on access, especially around the eastern arm of the lakes where erosion is becoming an issue. Our aim is to use faggots (bundles of sticks), which have been processed from the timber felled by volunteers in the newest coppice coup in Hill Lodge Wood. The faggots will be secured in the lake and reduce the force of the wave action created, allowing the bank to become re-established. This is the first time we have undertaken such a project and I am keen to see how it works. Once we have completed this work we will be looking to improve the condition of the path along the eastern arm.

The estate has seen some interesting visitors, including a Bittern in the reeds below the courtside accompanied by a Cetti's Warbler. Marsh Harriers are once again spending winter on the reed bed on Castlemartin Corse and otters appear to be using the reed bed as well!

As always, if you have any question or queries, please do not hesitate to contact me or a member of the team.

North Pembrokeshire

Kate Rees has sent this report:

Visitor welcome improvements at Southwood Farm

It's been a busy few months at Southwood Farm! Work has been progressing well, with our visitor car park now complete. We have new interpretation in the shearing shed too, which details Southwood's fascinating history and its role as our home farm.

We've also been focusing on access improvements to the farm, moving the roadside hedgebanks to increase visibility and create a safer entrance and exit, to and from the site.

Our pay and display car park opens to the public in March, with all funds going towards the maintenance and conservation

of the Southwood Estate. We hope to see lots of visitors exploring what this special place has to offer.

If you'd like to see what we've been up to and have a chat with the team, pop along to our Easter Fair and Cadbury Egg Hunt on April 14 (10.30am-3.30pm). There'll be lots of stalls to browse and chocolatey fun for the family.

Follow in St David's footsteps

On St David's Day, we launched a £2,000 fundraising campaign to help secure the future of our Welsh Mountain Ponies in North Pembrokeshire. Our ponies are key to conservation grazing and we need to increase the herd to continue this vital work.

We're encouraging visitors to follow in the footsteps of our patron saint and do the #LittleThings to make a big difference in preserving an historic landscape.

If you'd like to support the campaign, please text PONY to 70123 to donate £3 via mobile or you can find out more at: <http://bit.ly/littlethingsNTW>

New Countryside Manager

This spring, we welcomed Mark Underhill to the team! Mark is our new Countryside Manager for North Pembrokeshire – replacing Andrew Tuddenham who is now Food and Farming Consultant for Wales – and will lead our team of staff and volunteers in the north of the county.

Tudor Merchant's House

Angela Jones reports:

The Tudor Merchants House has had a good year with many interesting things happening – in true 1500 style! The house welcomed 24,000 visitors through its doors last year – all fascinated by its tales and many bringing their tales of old! The Mayor of Tenby and his mace bearers visited our herb garden in June to see how our red Rose of Lancaster was growing – very well was the answer! They also stopped outside the house to pass the time playing a game of Nine Men's Morris with two of our merchants! Always lovely to meet them.



2016 was the 451st anniversary of oranges being brought into the port, the first documented arrival of oranges into Wales. I wonder what our merchant made of it all? Last year we began the process of developing a new guidebook for the House. This was a fascinating process and involved many people from Heelis (the NT HQ in Swindon) coming to help us. The editorial team; Amy Feldman and Emily Roe worked tirelessly to produce a wonderful story of Tenby and in particular the Tudor Merchants House. The photographer James Dodson created some wonderful images that speak volumes about our House.

The cushions that you helped us purchase last year have been such an interesting addition and make another focal point that we can use to tell our stories. Thank you so much.

With the main visitor season now over we are working on the conservation of the wall paintings behind the reception desk. Recently these have been covered with a display our lovely hangings. However the wall paintings are in a delicate condition and we have just started conservation work on them. The hangings have been pulled back to display them and we expect to have a conservator working in the house for a couple of weeks this Spring. The big question at the moment is whether they are circa 1500 or circa 1750? We're working on finding out! If you would like to see them now is your chance and if there is any information that you would like about them – and that we have the answers to – please get in touch.

Colby Woodland Garden

Steve Whitehead reports:

Colby second-hand bookshop re-furbished.

The second-hand book-shop at Colby is being up-graded this year. Newly carpeted, and with comfy sofas and coffee tables, the book-shop above the tea-room will be a great new place to relax and browse for 2017. The funds generated this year will all go on wildflower seed to restore wildflower-rich meadows across the estate. Many of the meadows being restored will be accessible from both the old footpath across Craig-y-Borion Farm, and the newly created shorter link from Craig-y-Borion woods across to Little Craig-y-Borion woods. All donations of second-hand books welcome!

Woodland creation on marginal farmland at Craig-y-Borion

Staff and volunteers at Colby are gearing up for a year of woodland creation on the estate. New fences and gates are being installed to exclude grazing stock, before the planting of over 3000 donated, UK grown, native trees on marginal (sloping or boggy) farmland at Craig-y-Borion.

Restored outbuilding proves attractive to owls.

The old tin shed recently saved from collapse and re-roofed by volunteers on Craig-y-Borion Farm is already proving attractive to the Barn Owls. With one Owl regularly roosting inside already we have high hopes for a breeding pair this year. The old shed at Pwll-y-Grippin is also being fenced off and hedged round to keep the site nice and secluded, and a new owl-box donated by one of our volunteers should make it even more attractive to any potential residents. Fingers crossed for a successful breeding season!

Garden re-planting in the wake of Phytophthora.

Over 130 extremely rare and unusual trees and shrubs have been added to the collection at Colby over the winter, thanks to the efforts of the National Trust Plant Conservation Program. These include several species so rare that they are considered critically endangered in the

wild. Thanks also to the hard work, clearing and planting by staff and volunteers at Colby, there's finally light at the end of the tunnel and the garden is getting better and better every day!

N.T. SPRING/SUMMER EVENTS:

Stackpole

Booking for events call 01646 623110

Lakeside Wildlife at Stackpole – April 5th from 7.00 to 9.00

Discover Stackpole's resident wildlife on this early morning walk and talk around Bosherton Lakes. Warm up afterwards with a breakfast bap and hot drink at the Boathouse Tea Room. £8 per person. Meet Stackpole Centre. Booking Essential.

Cadbury Easter Egg Hunt – Friday April 14th to Monday April 17th - 11.00am to 3pm - £3per trail. Booking essential

Meet at the Court Site, Lodge Park Woods. Take the Chocolatey Challenge with clues, quizzes and competitions to enjoy.

Dawn til' Dusk at Gupton – Sat. April 29th from 5.30am with launch from 10am. Celebrate the opening of Gupton Farm at Freshwater West with a day full of walks, talks and workshops. Lots of hands-on family fun.

Lakeside Wildlife Walk Wed May 3rd As April 5th

Bushcraft Weekend – Fri. May 5th to Sun. May 7th at the Stackpole Centre. Booking essential.

Bushcraft skills, wild fire lighting, knife and axe work and woodland activities as you spend two nights at Stackpole. Cost £15 per person.

50 Things climbing challenge – May 31st 11am t 3pm at the Stackpole Quay Quarry

Learn the basics of climbing on the climbing wall with our instructors. All

equipment is provided. Suitable for ages 6+. Cost £5 per person.

Tudor Merchant's House

In addition to the normal House tours, there will be a number of 'theme' weeks, some reflecting Tudor living.

April 14 – 17 - Household chores

Come and find out how it was done before electricity, gas, detergents and other modern aids.

April 21 – 24 - Cadbury Easter Egg Hunt

Come and find those hot cross bun pics and then swap them for a Cadbury Treat (not Tudor).

May 27 – June 4 - Tudor Superstitions

Come along and find out more.

July 22 – end August - Tudor Playtime

Come along and help with the chores, get dressed up and play some games.

Aug 26 – 28 – Common Sayings

Can you match them all up?

1

Colby Woodland Garden

Booking on 01834 811885

Spring Plant Sale at Colby – Sat. April 8th from 10.00 to 16.30

Pop along to the Walled Garden for our Spring Plant Sale, browse the stalls and enjoy a Q&A session with Colby gardeners. Free event, normal admission charges apply.

'50 Things' fun at Colby – Sat. April 8th to April 23rd from 10.00 to 17.00.

Enjoy Colby's natural playground and see how many outdoor adventures you can tick off your '11 ¾ list'. Borrow a free play kit and have a go at pond dipping, duck racing, den building and tree climbing, among others.

Frogspawn and Tadpole Hunting - Tues. April 11th and Thurs April 20th starting 11.00am, 1.30 and 3.00pm

Go on a guided hunt for frogspawn, tadpoles and other critters in our ponds. Then have a go at some crafts or build a bug hotel. Booking essential.

Normal admission plus £2 per child

Cadbury Easter Egg Hunt – Frid. April 14th to Monday April 17th) from 11.00 to 1530

Celebrate Spring with an awesome Easter Egg Hunt at Colby. You will have to a walk around the Garden and look for clues.

Normal admission plus £2 per child

PCNPA Twilight Walk – Tuesday April 18th from 19.30 to 2100 and May 30th

Discover a surprising variety of woodland wildlife as the light fades and darkness falls at Colby. £3.50 per adult, £2.50 per child. Booking essential.

SPAN ARTS – April 21st at 10am and 2pm

Join the 'Queen Bee' Storywalk through the woods and meadows exploring the plants and creatures through song and storytelling. Cost £5, including entry to Colby. Booking essential.

'50 Things' fun at Colby – May 27th to June 4th

Programme as April 8th.

North Pembrokeshire

Booking for events call 01348 837860

Southwood Farm Easter Egg Hunt and Easter Fair – April 14th from 10.30 to 15.30

There will be lots of stalls to browse and a chocolatey Easter egg to enjoy. Cost £2 for each trail.

Birds for Beginners – May 3rd from 10.00am to 14.30pm

A 2 mile walk with our Ranger. A perfect introduction to the birdlife of this special place. Cost £5 adults, £2.50 children.

Meet Marloes NT carpark. Booking essential.

Coastal Spring Flowers at Porthclais – May 30th from 10.00 to 14.30

A chance to discover the beautiful coastal flowers on the Treginnis Peninsular on this 9.6km circular walk. Bring packed lunch,, wear sturdy footwear and carry waterproofs in case of rain. Cost £6 adults, children £3.50. Meet Porth Clais NT carpark. Booking essential.

Coastal Wildflowers for Beginners – June 2nd from 10.00 to 14.30

A chance to discover coastal flowers on the Treginnis Peninsular with basic guidance on how to ID our finds (handouts available). It is a 10km walk. Bring packed lunch, wear sturdy footwear and carry waterproofs in case of rain.. Bring magnifying glass and flower key if you have them. Cost adults £6, children £3.50. Meet Porth Clais NT Carpark. 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 helps 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 2017. We are notifying, 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* Andrew Weaver
Tel: 01646 831323
VICE-CHAIRMAN* Jim Price
& WALKS Tel: 01646 661344
TREASURER* Margret Price
Tel: 01646 661344
SECRETARY* Annie Weaver
Tel: 01646 831323

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. 01646 831323

**Pembrokeshire National Trust Association
2017 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, Pembs SA42 0UW

For further information regarding the Trips, please telephone Tim on 01348 811412 or email at timsimsw@onetel.com

Name/s _____

Address _____

Post Code _____ Telephone Number _____

E-mail _____

Thursday June 15th –The Royal Mint and Dyffryn house and gardens.

Number of Places _____ @ £35 Amount enclosed _____

Set Menu Option – Soup & Sandwich - £8.50 per person

Enjoy a bowl of vegetable soup made with produce grown in the Dyffryn kitchen garden.
Served with home prepared sandwiches, homemade cake and a soft drink.

I/We would like to book this option Yes No

If yes, please can you add the cost (£8.50 each) to total cost of the Trips Booking Form.

Amount enclosed _____

Picking up points will be arranged at Newport bus depot, Dinas, Fishguard/Letterston, Haverfordwest Bus Station, Narberth (Penblewin Car park), St Clears Car park at times to be notified nearer the date.

I/We wish to be picked up at _____

Tuesday July 25th –Afternoon River boat trip from Neyland to Haverfordwest and return

Number of Places _____ @ £25 Amount enclosed _____

I/We would like to book a supper place at the Bristol Trader Yes No

If yes, we shall follow the procedure outlined in the Summer Excursions Programme. It will be your responsibility to pay the pub after the meal.

TOTAL ENCLOSED _____

Booking Form for Luncheon on Friday October 6th at Lamphey Court Hotel

WORK, REST AND PRAY Three Residences of the Medieval Bishops of St Davids

Our guest speaker will be Richard Turner- Senior Inspector of Ancient Monuments at Cadw, Welsh Government. He will be talking about the Bishops who built their palaces at Lamphey ,Llawhaden and St Davids and their reasons for choosing these locations. He has written a comprehensive book about this for Cadw

For those able and interested he will, in addition, be taking a group around the ruins of the nearby Palace at around 11am. (Meet in front of the hotel)

We will be sitting down for lunch at 1pm. Details of menu choices will be sent out later.

Cost of meal £28.00 per head - friends welcome.

**PLEASE RETURN THIS FORM TO ANNIE BEFORE THE END OF
MAY IF YOU PLAN TO ATTEND. WE NEED A MINIMUM OF 50
ATTENDEES TO MAKE THE EVENT VIABLE.**

I would like to book place/s

Name/s _____

Address

Post Code _____ Telephone Number _____

E-mail _____

Cheque payable to PNTA. We are happy to accept cheques now but can accept them no later than August 12th.

Please send to: **Annie Weaver
Larks Rising,
Kiln Park ,
Burton SA73 1NY**

PNTA ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

The Pembrokeshire National Trust Association will hold its AGM at Crundale Community Hall on Tuesday April 11th 2017 commencing at 2.30pm.

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 **Justin Albert, the NT Director for Wales** who will talk about **The Development of the National Trust in Wales**

Please Note – The minutes of the 2016 AGM will be posted on our Notice Board at the Crundale Community Hall 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 3th to:

Andrew Weaver, Chairman PNTA, Larks Rising, Kiln Park,
Burton Ferry SA73 1NY or call him on 01646 831323 if you wish to have further
information.

PEMBROKESHIRE NATIONAL TRUST ASSOCIATION
INCOME AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT FOR THE YEAR 1 JANUARY - 31 DECEMBER 2016

	2016	2015
INCOME		
Membership Subscriptions	1333.00	1265.00
Funds generated from Summer outings and Autumn tour	1765.38	249.80
May Tour 2017	2650.00	
Refreshments from Picton Centre	115.06	101.81
Donations	0.00	8.00
Bank interest	1.80	2.24
	5865.24	1626.85

EXPENDITURE		
Donation to National Trust	1500.00	
Donations for Speakers	175.00	3000.00
Hire of Venue	170.00	60.00
Administration	335.60	245.00
PAVs Subscription	40.00	302.83
	2220.60	30.00
	3644.64	3637.83
		-2010.98

BALANCE SHEET AS AT 31 DECEMBER 2016

LIABILITIES		
Accumulated Fund b/f	3820.00	£ 3889.20
Surplus/Loss for year	3644.64	3575.44
	7464.64	7464.64
ASSETS		
Cash at Bank - Community a/c		
Cash at Business Premium a/c		

Margret Price

(Margret Price - Hon Treasurer)

I certify that I have examined the above accounts for the year ended 31 December 2016 and found them to be correct and in accordance with the books and records for the Pembrokehire National Trust Associations

P L Evans

(P L Evans ACIB)

Date

25/02

Signed

Date

2017