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### PEMBROKESHIRE NATIONAL TRUST ASSOCIATION

NEWSLETTER

No. 43

MARCH 2018

#### FROM YOUR CHAIRMAN

Warm greetings, as I write this on a snowy day in March.

We can look back on well attended events, with about eighty people attending the November talk. Thanks once more to Arnold Williams for lining up entertaining speakers on a variety of topics. The wildlife of near and far (Skomer and Madagascar) was splendidly illustrated by former colleagues of Dale Fort, John Archer-Thomson and Julian Cremona, at consecutive meetings. Martin Roberts displayed his story telling art as he took us back to the first Smalls Lighthouse. Finally David Dando gave us detailed history of Englishman Thomas Paine who had influence in North America as Independence came, and France as the Revolution evolved.

Sadly the final talk of the season, Dai Evans on antiques, had to be abandoned due to weather warnings. We hope to arrange a future date for this presentation.

Our speaker, following the business of the April AGM, will be Ranger Sarah Jones, who will talk about estate management at Dinefwr.

As well as looking to the recent past, the committee has been reflecting on the formation of PNTA 20 years ago, and to celebrate this anniversary we are arranging a lunch at Wolfscastle Country Hotel, on Friday 23rd November. **For more details see page 4.**

It was pleasing, on a recent visit to the "Rose Garden" at Stackpole, to see snowdrops coming through in numbers. Along with other organisations, PNTA has

donated towards the development of this area, and it is good to see plantings settle in.

Our donation to Pembrokeshire National Trust projects is greater this year. Your support of our events has helped in raising revenue. We are also dipping into our financial reserves, as we can afford to reduce our running balance. As a result a cheque for £5000 will be handed to Jonathan Hughes, at our AGM.

Tim Sims-Williams has lined up two day trips for the summer. In June we will combine a visit to Aberglasney Gardens with a tour of Dinefwr NT, at Llandeilo.

In July we will have a day at St Fagans. The rebuilding of the main reception building is now complete. There are many different examples of historic buildings on the site, plus the original St Fagans Manor House and gardens.

Jim Price is lining up evening walks for us, at a variety of locations.

More detail on these events past and future will be found in the following pages.

My thanks as ever to our committee. I have already mentioned Tim and Arnold's contributions. Jim Price puts together the newsletter and writes most of the reports on events. Margret Price kindly continues in the Treasurer role, whilst Sheila Ashton runs the membership, Jane Mason covers Public Relations and Annie Weaver is our secretary.

There is space on the committee for new members and we would value support to continue the success of the organisation.

Andrew Weaver

## **PNTA GIFT TO PEMBROKESHIRE NATIONAL TRUST**

Because of the success of our Summer Programme last year we were able to donate just over £5000. This has been split between three Properties;

### Tudor Merchants House

The £1750 we are donating will be divided between two projects.

Firstly the miniature dolls, mentioned in the TMH Report, will be dressed in Tudor costumes appropriate to their role in the household. This will add a further level of interest when children go off to find them. The remainder of the money will be used to renovate the Tudor Herb Garden.

### North Pembrokeshire

The NT conservator has been successful in securing £8000 to preserve and relocate the old metal winch wheel from Stumpy Corner at Little Milford to the main carpark on the Hook Road. Matt Thompson, the local NT Ranger, has been working with the community and local schools on this project and they are very supportive. A condition of the £8000 grant was the need to for a donation of £1800 for onsite interpretation. The PNTA will fund this.

### Colby Woodland Garden

Colby continues to expand its programme of walks and talks with one of its most popular being in the twilight hours. In order to meet demand, Colby wants to buy six bat detectors so that visitors can listen to and identify the bats. They also want some extra bug hunting and identification aids to see what the bats are eating. We are donating £1500 towards this.

## **REPORT ON WINTER PROGRAMME TALKS**

### **Thursday November 2<sup>nd</sup> – ‘The Natural History of Skomer, above and below High Water’ – John Archer Thomson**

John, a coastal ecologist, was Assistant Head of the Dale Fort Field Centre. He

opened his talk by explaining the physical differences between Skomer and Skokholm. Skomer is a Silurian volcanic rock formation while Skokholm is red sandstone. The former is impervious and collects rainfall while the latter is pervious and has little fresh water. This enables Skomer to support a much wider range of wildlife. What neither have is ground mammal predators such as rats which enables ground nesting birds to thrive.

John started his ecology review with plants. His pictures showed the swathes of bluebells, red and white campion, and thrift which make Skomer beautiful in Spring and early Summer. He then talked about the birds. The cliff nesting birds are Herring, Blackback and Greater Blackback gulls, and Kittiwakes. These birds are in population decline at present for various reasons. However the gregarious Guillemots and Razorbills are thriving. The two birds which are important to Skomer are Puffins, which pull in the visitors, and Manx Shearwaters, because Skomer and Skokholm together support 50% of the world population. Both these are ground nesting birds, living in burrows. that are vulnerable to predatory Gulls.

Skomer’s mammal population is low with aquatic seals and porpoises, and land based rabbits and the unique Skomer vole.

John finished the talk with pictures the underwater world of seaweeds, sea urchins, starfish, anemones, slugs, corals and sponges, to name but a few.

### **Thursday December 7<sup>th</sup> – ‘Wildlife in Madagascar’ – Julian Cremona**

Julian gave a brief introduction to Madagascar which is the 3<sup>rd</sup> largest island in the World, about 1000 miles long, off the eastern coast of Africa. Its sources of income are minerals, jewels and vanilla, which is derived from one of its indigenous orchids. It is one of the poorest countries in the world. Its wealth, as with many sub-Saharan countries, is largely benefiting a clique of politicians. It separated from Africa about 60,000 years ago. Its isolation has allowed African apes to

evolve into lemurs, which are unique to the island.

Julian went there to look at its ecology. He made the point that in Costa Rica, about which he talked to us last winter, the wildlife came to him. In Madagascar many animals live at the top of the tall trees that make up the green rainforest. Finding its wildlife is hard work even with local guides. His pictures had to be taken with telescopic lens and flashlight. In the time it took to set this up, his target had often moved away. On his first expedition into a rain forest Julian was puzzled as to why his guide kept flicking his (Julian's) face. It was explained that he was removing leeches. Julian then looked down at his trousers which had turned red and discovered his legs were covered in leeches. He dressed more carefully for the rest of the trip.

Given all these difficulties, Julian still took around 5000 photos of which we saw 200 during his talk. These included lemurs which are not only unique to the island but in many cases have evolved differently in the different areas of rainforest. Chameleons are also common and Madagascar is home to 60% of the world's species. Other common creatures are geckos, frogs (some only an inch long) and many brightly coloured birds. Despite the wildlife, Julian does not intend to go back.

#### **Thursday January 4<sup>th</sup> 2018 – 'The First Smalls Lighthouse' – Martin Roberts**

The Smalls rocks are located in the Irish Sea about 23 miles west of Solva. They are a wave platform rather than an island and reach about 3 feet above sea level at mean high tide. This made them very dangerous, with hundreds of ships foundering there over the centuries.

In 1770 a large trading vessel was wrecked on the rocks and Thomas Williams, who lived at Whitesands, decided that he would fund the building of a lighthouse. He organised a competition for its design and build, which was won by Henry Whiteside, a musical instrument maker from Liverpool. The structure had nine 50 feet

oak supports bedded into rock, topped with a small octagonal living area for the keepers with the light itself on top of them. The building materials were all assembled on Solva Quay and wisely the building team practised the build process before setting out for the Smalls. The first requirement on them was to fix four iron rings into the rock onto which the workmen could tie themselves to avoid being washed away. The lighthouse started operation in 1776 and in 1778 was transferred to Trinity House.

In 1800 there was a tragedy on the Lighthouse. Thomas Howells and Thomas Griffith, both from Solva and known enemies, were the two keepers. Griffiths died and Howells decided that he would keep the body until relief came so that he could not be accused of murder.

However foul weather stopped the relief coming for some months. As the body decomposed Howells made a coffin and tied it onto the outside of the lighthouse. The sea gradually smashed the coffin and the decomposing body was visible to Howells. One of the arms was loose and waved in the wind as if encouraging Howells to go outside. Howells kept managing the light until the relief arrived but he had become mad. This incident caused Trinity House to change their manning procedures so that there were always three keepers on duty.

Trinity House replaced that old lighthouse with a new stone build structure in 1861.

#### **Thursday February 1<sup>st</sup> – 'The Radical Corset Maker' – David Dando**

Tom Paine was born in Norfolk in 1739. His father was a Quaker and corset maker. Aged 13, after some schooling, he joined his father's business. He recognised his unsuitability for this and became an Excise Officer. He was dismissed from his position in 1772 for writing a pamphlet declaring better wages for the Officers was the only way to stop corruption in the organisation.

In London he met Benjamin Franklin who advised him to try his luck in the American

Colonies. Tom moved to Pennsylvania just as the conflict between the colonists and the British Government was becoming serious. Tom met the American Founding Fathers and recommended their revolt should not just be about 'taxation without representation' but about Independence. He put his ideas into a 50 page pamphlet called 'Common Sense' which sold over 500,000 copies in a few months and paved the way for the 'Declaration of Independence' on July 4<sup>th</sup> 1776.

Tom played an active role during the War but, once it was over, he was no longer 'centre stage' and became restless. He moved back to England in 1787 and became involved in an argument with Edmund Burke who was attacking the French Revolution. Paine's riposte was to publish 'The Rights of Man' in 1792 which proposed a series of actions that would aid ordinary people. The book was considered so radical that it was banned by the Government who also indicted him for treason.

However Tom was now in France having been elected as the representative for Calais in the National Convention. Here he followed another dangerous course by speaking against capital punishment and the execution of King Louis. He was imprisoned by Robespierre and the Jacobins for nearly a year, but was released when they in turn became victims of the Revolution. While in prison he wrote 'The Age of Reason' which opposed organised religion and branded him as an atheist. In 1797 he published his final book 'Agrarian Justice' which attacked the inequalities of property ownership adding to his enemies in establishment circles.

He returned to the US but had lost his popularity because of his radical political and religious views. He also chose to publicly attack George Washington, the country's hero, and reminded people that 'to talk about freedom while slavery still exists' was hypocrisy. He died on 1809.

Tom's brief epitaph was 'Hero, Patriot but a Paine in the butt', truly a remarkable life.

**Thursday March 1<sup>st</sup> – 'The Art of Collecting Antiques' – David (Dai) Evans**

Regrettably, the Talk had to be cancelled due to the bad weather and difficult driving conditions.

**Thursday April 5<sup>th</sup> – AGM and Talk.**

After the business of the AGM, there will be a talk from **Sarah Jones, a Dinefwr Ranger, about the Property.** She will talk a little about Newton House but mainly about the management of the estate and the herd of White Park Cattle which they are hoping to expand..

### **AUTUMN EVENT – EARLY NOTICE**

**PNTA 20<sup>th</sup> ANNIVERSARY LUNCH**  
**Our Association was launched in 1998 and we plan to hold a celebration lunch this year.**

**Annie Weaver has contacted the Wolfscastle Country Hotel and has made a provisional booking for Friday November 23<sup>rd</sup>.**

**The cost is likely to be £25 per person for a 3 course meal and tea/coffee/fudge. We will have 4 choices for each course.**

**Jonathan Hughes, General Manager National Trust Pembrokeshire, has agreed to talk to us about his recent secondment to Wimpole Hall in Cambridgeshire. We are also hoping that previous chairmen will be join us.**

**It is important that we are able to gauge our attendance, although we are not asking you to commit yet. If you are interested in attending, please email Annie at [annielweaver@gmail.com](mailto:annielweaver@gmail.com) or return the form in the Newsletter.**

**We shall be delighted if you can come.**

### **SUMMER PROGRAMME 2018**

**PNTA TOUR to THE LAKE DISTRICT – MAY 13 – 17<sup>th</sup>**

The Tour has been well supported and we are looking forward to an enjoyable 5 days away. We will be staying in the Lancaster House Hotel, in Lancaster. It is well placed

for visiting the Lake District. The price includes a three course dinners (with menu choice) and use of the leisure facilities (swimming pool and gym).

Day 1 will have us travelling to Lancaster with a stopover at a NT property en route.

Day 2 has a cruise on the Coniston Lake Gondola, run by the National Trust, with an optional stop at John Ruskin's former home, Brantwood. In the afternoon we will go to Grasmere where we can visit Dove Cottage (William Wordsworth's home), take walks along the Lake, or just enjoy the shops and cafes of Grasmere.

Day 3 will start with a visit to Sizergh Castle (NT) with both house and gardens to explore. This will be followed by a boat trip on Lake Windermere. If time allows we will call into nearby Holehird Gardens.

Day 4 takes us to Blackwell, an unusual house on the slopes above Lake Windermere. It is a prime example of the Arts and Crafts movement. We then move on to Holker Hall, near Grange over Sands, with its house and gardens.

Day five takes us back to Pembrokeshire, with a stopover at a NT Property.

The tour will be, as usual, conducted under the auspices of Richards Brothers.

Andrew Weaver

### **SUMMER EXCURSIONS**

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

#### **DAY TRIPS FOR 2018**

##### **Thursday 21<sup>st</sup> June - Aberglasney and Dinefwr (Newton House) NT**

We join the coach at the usual places and travel to **Aberglasney**, arriving at 10am. Aberglasney is described as one of Wales' finest gardens, a renowned plantsman's

garden paradise with a unique Elizabethan cloister garden at its heart. The House (Grade II\* listed) now has a fully restored ground floor and staircase up to the first floor. There will be no guided tour and we will be free to roam the gardens as we wish, and enjoy some refreshments at the coffee/tea shop.

Website: [www.aberglasney.org](http://www.aberglasney.org).

At 1200-1230 we rejoin the coach and drive to **Newton House (NT)** which is close by.

This is a place of legends and folklore, owned by the Rhys family together with nearby Dinefwr Castle (managed by CADW). In the 9<sup>th</sup> century it was originally occupied by the Kings of Deheubarth. Newton House was built by the Rhys family in Tudor times and rebuilt in 1660s. There were further alterations in the 1860s.

Depending on the number coming we may split into 2 parties when we arrive. The first group will eat in the Billiard Room and the other to go on a guided tour of the house (about an hour), and then change round. The tour takes us around the buildings and up the splendid staircase with lots of paintings of the Rhys family.

After the lunch and tour we will be free to walk around the grounds. You can walk to the castle from Newton House. Another feature of the Park, redesigned by Capability Brown, are the White cattle which have been there for 1000 years, and also fallow deer. Other footpaths take you around the extensive estate and you can visit the boardwalk taking you around the Nature Reserve.

There is tractor and trailer transport to get closer to the cattle in safety as an extra, or a Parkland Tour. Please indicate whether you would like to go on either of these which are an **extra at £3 a person**.

We all need to be back at Newton House to rejoin the coach at 1700 and then drive home.

**Cost £25.** (food and drink is not included).

**Wednesday 11<sup>th</sup> July - St Fagans National History Museum, Cardiff (not NT)**

The coach will pick up from the usual places and take us direct to St Fagans arriving about 1030. The museum is situated in the grounds of St Fagans Castle, a country house built in 1580, on the site of a ruined Norman castle, and furnished in early 19<sup>th</sup> century style complete with heavy oak furniture and solemn portraits. Below the formal gardens, grassy terraces slope down to 18<sup>th</sup> century fishponds restored to their original design. These back onto an **Open Air Museum** in parkland. There are reconstructed historical buildings from all over Wales including a farmhouse, cottages, tannery, pottery, 3 mills, a smithy, bakehouse, Victorian stores, church, school, workers club etc. There is also the Tudor store from Haverfordwest about which we had a talk a few years ago.. Lots to see!

On arrival there is a large modern reception and display building, close to the car park which incorporates a restaurant. Website: [st.fagans@museumwales.ac.uk](mailto:st.fagans@museumwales.ac.uk) We will have a 'paid for' site introduction before you will be free to wander and browse.

There is a disabled vehicle available to hire, at a cost, and this will be booked, if needed, as soon as the visit is confirmed. It was decided not to hire the upstairs of the Workers Club for our meal but to allow members to have refreshments when and where they please.. There are several eating places, including the main building. I can send anyone interested a copy of the main food available including Cawl, High tea, cream tea etc.

**Cost £27 – (food and drink not included)**

**Bring your NT Membership Cards 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.**

**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.

**Tuesday May 29<sup>th</sup> – Craig y Borion with Steve Whitehead**

Steve will take us on another trip through the Craig y Borion farms looking at areas we did not see last year and areas where the wildflower planting is starting to show results. We will also look at some of the fauna, and in particular moths in moth traps and the barn owl roost which has been in use over the winter.

Meet at Colby Car Park at 6.30pm.

**Tuesday June 12<sup>th</sup> – ‘Abermawr and Treseissyllt’ with James Roden, Area Ranger – North Pembs.**

James will be leading us from Abermawr Beach, then North along the Coastal Path, and through National Trust land at Treseissyllt. The walk will take in some of the fantastic flora and fauna of the area and will be an opportunity to see how the NT's renewed focus is on nature conservation is being implemented on the ground. It is an area we have not been to before.

Meet at Abermawr Beach by 6.30pm.

The best way to get there is from the A487. Follow the road signposting Abermawr (2 miles) and Tregwynt Woollen Mill. About 1 mile down the lane, carry straight over the cross roads, still following signs for Abermawr. Shortly after the crossroads, follow the road as it bends right, passing Tregwynt Hall on the left. The road descends into the valley and at the bottom, just before the bridge, take a sharp left which is a no through road and is still signposting Abermawr. Follow this lane to

the end where there is roadside parking and turning circle.

### **July 17th – Lawrenny with Ranger Alex Shilling**

Lawrenny woodlands are an excellent example of an estuarine sessile oak woodland, with unique lichen moss and liverwort communities, for which it has SSSI status. Wild Service trees, unusual in Pembrokeshire, also populate the understorey throughout the woods. There are glimpses through the trees of the Cleddau, before we climb onto neighbouring farmland and get a fantastic view over the estuary surrounding Lawrenny Quay.

Meet at Lawrenny Quay 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 done to enable people to enjoy them.

### **North Pembrokeshire**

Mark Underhill, Countryside Manager for North Pembrokeshire, reports

Hello again! It is almost exactly a year since I joined the National Trust and I am pleased to report that I am still here and enjoying my role immensely. This is a very exciting time to be a conservationist working for the NT. In 2017 the Trust set out our vision and our priorities for the countryside. We believe that we need to play our part in protecting our natural environment – soils, water and wildlife – for future generations. A healthy countryside and flourishing wildlife are not just good for people's health and happiness; they are also the essential foundations for a thriving rural economy. The Trust's renewed focus on wildlife and landscapes strikes a strong chord for the Ranger team. We don't have the big houses of other parts of Wales or England; the Pembrokeshire coast is our wildlife mansion and we are proud to have it in our care!

A key piece of work for the team over the last six months has been to develop our response to this new vision, starting with a review of our land. This is no mean feat; the National Trust owns nearly 60 miles of the Pembrokeshire coast spread across 33 sites from Gernos to Marloes! It has been a great induction for James Roden (our new Area Ranger) and me! Between us we have visited most sites, met the tenants and discussed options with our Estate Management and Wildlife Advisor. This has already started to bring rewards, with one tenant offering to replace a field of spring barley for a sacrificial crop of wild bird seed. That is a bird table and a half! We look forward to seeing our farmland birds flock to this in the coming autumn. As well as the immediate rewards, this piece of work has provided a structured insight into where the National Trust and our tenants could be doing more for nature. Over the coming months we will take this work back to our tenants and begin a dialogue that will start to set out how North Pems will play its part in protecting our natural environment.

One of the key elements in our conservation plans is returning cattle and pony grazing to the coastal slopes. Grazing of the coastal slopes is a traditional farming practice that is critical to create the conditions where wildflowers like sea thrift, sea campion and kidney vetch thrive, and where Cough can feed. Throughout the winter our Rangers and volunteers have been busy working on our sites to prepare them for grazing this summer. Without grazing, especially with cattle, coarser grasses and shrubs like blackthorn and gorse dominate and we lose the fantastic displays of coastal flowers. So if you are out and about this summer enjoying the coastal flowers, take a moment to think of the "hard miles" put in by our Rangers and volunteers over winter! We are very lucky to have a full complement of three Full Time Volunteers (FTVs) working with us at the moment: Mary; Sarah and Dan. The National Trust volunteering programme is a fantastic asset

for a property like North Pembrokeshire. Working alongside our Rangers and local volunteers they literally double the amount of conservation work we can do; and with 60 miles of coastline to look after it is hard to imagine life without them. Whilst we benefit from their time, we aim to make their stay with us as productive as possible. We provide free accommodation (it may be draughty, but the view across Strumble Head is one of the best in the UK). We also work with our volunteers to provide the practical training and experience they need to take their next step on their own “conservation journey”. We are proud of our track record. Our two most recent volunteers are now in full-time employment with the Trust.

At Marloes our work on Runwayskilyn, which the YHA handed back to the NT is coming to fruition. I am very excited to be able to tell you about our latest partnership with our new tenants – Charlie and Claire. We have worked with the local community to agree new plans for the property as a vibrant hub providing accommodation, refreshment and information to the many visitors to the area. Following significant investment in structural works by the National Trust in 2017, we have been working with Charlie and Claire who have exciting plans to work with the Trust to develop a high quality café and bunk-house accommodation. Their enthusiasm and ambition are infectious and I urge you to take a trip there soon to sample their lovely food and see their plans. They open at Easter 2018. (See their Facebook page [www.facebook.com/runwayskilyn/](http://www.facebook.com/runwayskilyn/))

It is snowing outside as I write this and yet our plucky car-park teams have been down to Marloes and Martin’s Haven preparing the car-parks for opening on 1<sup>st</sup> March! Our Commercial Manager (Cath Orchard) has done a fantastic job building (and retaining over-winter) a dedicated team of “Membership and Visitor Welcome Assistants” for our car-parks on the Marloes Peninsula. This team did a fantastic job (despite the weather) last year

raising more support than ever for our cause.

We have now posted our Events Programme for the coming year on the National Trust website and our Facebook page. You can also see our Events on page 12 of the Newsletter.

### **Stackpole**

Chris Oliver reports:

The days are noticeably getting longer, bird song is far more evident, and for once this article will not start with woodland management and trees. In fact this winter has seen little woodland work take place. Instead the team’s focus has been on access, specifically along the lakeside paths on the estate. 2017 saw the point reached where undercutting and erosion on the lakeside paths was becoming an issue. Various solutions were considered but it was decided that we needed to move the path inland and remove areas that were showing signs of undercutting. This has proven to be a great success and would have been impossible without the work of our volunteers who produced superbly accurately laid path edging!

As well as path work, further lake management work has taken place this year in an effort to sustain water quality during and after heavy downpours. The woodland silt trap in Castle Dock has had large quantities of silt pumped out of it into geotextile bags which increases the depth of traps and make them more efficient. Some trial pumping of silt out of the eastern arm itself has taken place.



Pumping silt on the eastern arm.

Elsewhere on the estate 2018 will be the year when another compartment is halo thinned within the woodland. This work will see the semi evergreen Spanish Oaks become more prominent. It will provide an opportunity for further planting and the potential for bluebells and more snowdrops. Mowing in the woodland this year was also increased in order to maintain a low herbage layer, particularly in the central areas of the woodland. The first cut took place in February and already we are seeing an increase in snow drops in the rose garden (a flower which was prolific in there in the 18<sup>th</sup> Century). Whilst mowing in the rose garden the rangers found a lone rose that had taken advantage of the more open growing conditions. It will be interesting to see what it turns into. New plantings this year will primarily be conifers, most of which were originally present in the woodland. They include Cedar of Lebanon (a personal favourite), Maritime Pine, Coastal Redwood and a Scarlet Oak



Rose garden after cutting February 2018

Gupton has experienced a mixed year. The introduction of winter grazing on the conservation areas should promote a cropped sward well into the growing season which will promote less competitive dune grassland species. This is a very positive step and I anticipate a far more floristically diverse dune grassland this summer. Over wintering bird numbers have been mixed. Three surveys have taken place in the winter of 2017/18 and the data yielded has ranged from thousands of Golden Plover and Lapwings and over

400 Snipe. Disappointingly there were low numbers of small birds such as Linnets despite a new food source in the form of crops left on the field margins. This is not to say that they have not come to the peninsula but rather they have found a better food source.

Finally, I am leaving Stackpole and the National Trust after nearly 11 years. I am sad to leave but excited for the future. I would like to thank you all for your help and contributions over the years; I have genuinely enjoyed our walks, despite some difficult questions! I am looking forward to coming to the estate as a visitor and not making job lists in my head or constantly assessing the condition of trees.

Thank you again, Chris.

### **Tudor Merchant's House**

Angela Jones reports:

Tudor Merchants House had a busy October half term. We turned the lights out and had the second of our after dark tours that week. It is always interesting what people think of these and we have lots of discussions with our visitors about the house – after all it would have been like this in Tudor times. It's very different! We always turn the lights out in the kitchen when the schools visit us and compare what it was like then and what it's like now. It must have been very difficult to work in those conditions.

Our speaker at the end of the tour was Tony Riches one of our local authors and one who specialises in Tudor history. He gave us an interesting talk on Tudor life and also an update on his latest book Mary Tudor – Henry VIII's sister. All in all a very good evening.

We continued to open at weekends leading up to Christmas and from the middle of November the house was decorated Tudor style. Lots of greenery! The house always looks and smells so lovely at this time of year and people comment on how different it looks compared with the summer. The house closed for the season on the 24<sup>th</sup> of December last year.

The next 6 weeks gives us an opportunity to get ready for the new season and also to make sure that the conservation work is undertaken although this is now, when possible, undertaken when the visitors are coming into the property and people can share our finds and plans.

Talking of this, the wall paintings have certainly been very popular recently. BBC and ITV together with the radio have all come and had a look! Clare Stoughton Harries our curator has been the lead on this and done a magnificent job in publicising our work and ensuring that the work has been carried out sensitively by Peter Martindale, who did some initial work a few years ago. He has now returned to uncover more artwork and to stabilise the north wall which was very damp – it isn't now! We still do not have an accurate date for the paintings but think that it is probably late 18<sup>th</sup> century work which adds another layer to the property's history. Do come and have a look if you haven't already – they are very interesting and were the focus for our 2017 raffle sales.

Our plans for this year include an Easter Trail in conjunction with Cadburys – search for a lovely chocolate pressie – the Tudor's may not have had them but we enjoy searching for them now! Our February half term quiz was for common sayings – are you up to date with your thresholds and pot luck? Many words and phrases have stayed with us since 1500 and before. Even if we do not understand what they mean we still use them – how about 'treading the boards'. We use it but may not be sure about what it means.

New this year is our Tudor Household Trail – searching for Tudor dolls – about 10 cms in size so they can be hard to spot which makes it interesting! I have been on a search for dolls house furniture to fit with the size of the dolls. They will be spaced around the house for people to find and then complete a 'worksheet' to say where they were and what they were doing. These should be out and about in the summer.

We are asking people to think about Tudor Superstitions – Tudor times were full of superstitions and we are building on our already well-resourced superstition archive to include some more thoughts on the bedroom floor. Again lots to talk about and ponder on why..... The bedroom floor is undergoing some further representation and we have got more superstitions and some small bags which contain herbs which would help you sleep – can you work out which one is which? The bed will now have a bedspread of lovely woollen cloth that will help to show it off in all its finery. We have accepted the offer of another 1500 coffer and chair which will help with our seating and display ideas upstairs too.

### **Colby Woodland Garden**

Steve Whitehead reports:

Work on Craig-y-Borion Farmland to improve its value for nature continues. There are new woodland strips, linking larger woodlands, fenced and planted. Mixed native woodland has also been planted over five fields on vulnerable slopes or stream-sides. The re-instatement of wildflower rich meadows continues too, with large swathes of Pembrokeshire-harvested wildflower seed going in across the southern half of the farmland this Spring.

The partially rebuilt and re-clad farm shed at Pwll-y-Grippin is already proving popular with the Barn owls and with a few more trees to be planted around it this Spring and a new owl-box going in, it should provide a breeding place for years to come.

In the Garden a huge amount of clearance and re-planting has been achieved by the Gardeners and Volunteers over the winter with lots of rarities from the NT Plant Conservation programme going in to enrich the existing plantation. In the walled garden a list of plants in the different borders has been created and displayed in the little sheds. New stone edging has been installed, to replace the old degraded timber and slate of the central

circular bed and meandering path. A new large circular bed of ornamental grasses, with a similar stone edge has also been created in the orchard area to echo and amplify the wildflower meadow we've been encouraging amongst the fruit trees. Thanks again to the hard work of Volunteers on the stone edging!

A new timber bridge has been installed at Cwms, which should make the Parkrun a slightly smoother proposition over this section. The Parkrun continues to attract around 100 runners every week and this year we'll again be hosting Tavernspite school for their children's run on May 5<sup>th</sup>.

Sadly, we won't have Pembrokeshire Craft makers with us in the gallery this year. We simply can't manage our own operations any longer without more space. Taking the Crogloft back in hand has allowed us to ease the pressure on both the Gardeners workshops and Shop storeroom/office, and to retrieve events equipment and historical archive material stored in damp outbuildings across the estate. The move also allows us to provide space for Staff and Volunteers to work on Historical archives, wildlife records etc. We are hoping to host temporary exhibitions in the Bothy over the course of the year.

### **N.T. SPRING/SUMMER EVENTS:**

#### **Stackpole**

**Booking for events call 01646 623110**

#### **Lakeside Wildlife Walk**

Wednesday 4 Apr, 2 May, 6 Jun, 4 July, 1 Aug, 7am – 9am. Discover Stackpole's resident wildlife in this early morning walk around the Bosherton Lakes. Warm up afterwards with a breakfast bap and hot drink at the Boathouse Tea Room Please meet at the Stackpole Centre car park SA71 5DQ.

£8 per person, booking essential.

#### **Woof Walks**

Thur, 15 Mar, 19 Apr, 17 May

Join our dog-walking group at Stackpole and explore the best of our trails with your four-legged friends. Afterwards enjoy a

bite at the Boathouse Tearoom. Meet at the Stackpole Quay car park, SA71 5LS.

#### **Bushcraft weekend**

Fri 4 to Sun 6 May (from 4pm Fri to 12pm Sun). Join our Ranger for a full on woodland adventure. Bushcraft skills, wild fire lighting, knife and axe work and woodland activities will be part of your outdoor experience as you spend two nights at Stackpole.

£20 per person, booking essential.

#### **Colby Woodland Garden**

**Booking for events call 01834 811885**

#### **Colby Explorer Trail -10am - 4pm**

Mon 26 March to Thurs 29 March

Tues 3 April to Mon 16 April

Sat 26 May to Sun 3 June

Wed 1 Aug to Sun 2 September

Tackle our explorer trail through woodland and wildlife meadows as you search for resident wildlife. Complete the trail and you'll be rewarded with a victory prize.

£1.50 per trail. Normal admission charges apply. No booking needed

#### **Spring Plant Sale Sat May 5 10am-4pm**

Pop along to our sale, browse the stalls and enjoy a Q&A with our gardeners.

Free event, normal admission charges

#### **Wildflower Meadow Walks ,Thurs June**

7,14,21,and 28 2-4pm.

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

#### **North Pembrokeshire**

**Booking for events call 01348 837860**

#### **The big beach clean challenge**

Wed 11 Apr at Marloes Sands 10am-12pm

Tues 29 May at Newgale Sands 11am-1pm

Sat 23 June at Solva Harbour 10am-12pm

Help us care for the North Pems coastline with our monthly beach cleans. Litter kit will be provided so just pop in on the day. Free event, no booking needed.

#### **Spring Nature Trail, Southwood Farm**

Daily from Sat 31 March to Sun 15 April

Head to Southwood Farm this Easter and take on our Spring nature trail. Have your

ID guides at the ready and see which resident flora and fauna you can spot.

Free, parking charges apply. SA62 6AR

### **Dawn Chorus Walk, Marloes Mere**

**Sun 6 May, 5.30am – 7.30am**

Celebrate International Dawn Chorus Day with an early morning walk to Marloes Mere. After the guided walk, enjoy breakfast at Runwayskilyn Café.

Meet Marloes Sands car park, SA62 3BH. £10 per adult, £3.50 per child including hot drink and breakfast. Booking essential 01437 720385

### **Spring Wildflower Walk, St Davids Head- Mon 28 May, 1.30pm-4.30pm**

Join us for 4km coastal walk around St Davids Head to see spring wildflower at their finest. Led by NT Ranger, learn how to ID the flora spotted on route.

Meet Whitesands carpark (SA62 6PS). Parking charges apply. £6 per adult, £3.50 per child. Booking essential 01437 720385.

### **Seabird spectacular – Dinas Head**

Wed 30 May, 1.30 – 4.30pm

Go on a guided wildlife walk to see the seabird spectacular. Led by a NT Ranger, look for birds such as chough, guillemots, razorbills, and herring gulls on this 5km circular trail.

Meet at Pwllgwaelod car park.

£6 per adult, £3.50 per child. Booking essential on 01437 720385

### **Tudor Merchants House**

**Booking for events call 01834 84227**

### **Tudor Superstitions**

Mon 26 March to Sat 21 July 11am-5pm

The 15<sup>th</sup> century was all about suspicions, from spoons to sleeping patterns to ward off wicked spirits. Come and uncover the Tudor's quirky traditions for yourself.

Free, normal admission charges apply.

### **PNTA WEBSITE**

The Association has a website at [www.pembsnta.org.uk](http://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 [robashton95@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:robashton95@yahoo.co.uk) .

### **MEMBERSHIP SUBSCRIPTIONS**

Your membership subscriptions were due for renewal on Jan 1<sup>st</sup> 2018. 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

### 2018 Summer Day Trips booking Form

If you wish to go on any or both 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 \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Post Code \_\_\_\_\_ Telephone Number \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail \_\_\_\_\_

#### Thursday June 21st –Aberglasney Gardens and Dinefwr, Llandeilo

Would you like to hire a disabled vehicle YES/NO  
Number of Places \_\_\_\_\_ @ £25 Amount enclosed \_\_\_\_\_

#### Wednesday July 11st –St Fagans, Cardiff - all day

Would you like to hire a disabled vehicle YES/NO  
Number of Places \_\_\_\_\_ @ £27 Amount enclosed \_\_\_\_\_

Total enclosed \_\_\_\_\_

**Picking up points** will be arranged at Newport bus depot, Dinas, Fishguard, Letterston, Haverfordwest bus station, Narberth (Penblewin Car park).

I/We wish to be picked up at \_\_\_\_\_

**PNTA 20<sup>th</sup> ANNIVERSARY LUNCH**

**FRIDAY NOVEMBER 23<sup>RD</sup> 2018**

**WOLFSCASTLE HOTEL**

**3 Course Meal  
4 Choices each course  
Cost £25**

**Guest Speaker – Jonathan Hughes, General Manager, National Trust  
Pembrokeshire**

**‘My Secondment to Wimpole Hall in Cambridgeshire’**

**Please return the Form to Annie ASAP OR BY MAY 17<sup>TH</sup> LATEST (end of  
Lake District Tour). We need to confirm the booking with the Hotel.**

**A MINIMUM OF 30 ATTENDEES ARE NEEDED TO MAKE THE  
EVENT VIABLE.**

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I would be interested in attending the Lunch ..... place/s

Name/s \_\_\_\_\_

Address  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Post Code \_\_\_\_\_ Telephone Number \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail \_\_\_\_\_

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

Or  
Email her at **annieweaver@gmail.com**

## **PNTA ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING**

The Pembrokeshire National Trust Association will hold its AGM at Crundale Community Hall on Thursday April 5<sup>th</sup> 2018 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; General Data Protection Regulations.

Following the AGM there will be a talk from **Sarah Jones, a Dinefwr Ranger, about the Property and how the NT is developing it.**

**Please Note – The minutes of the 2017 AGM will be posted on our Notice Board at the Crundale Community Hall before the meeting.**

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### **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 3<sup>th</sup> 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 2017**

	2017	2016
<b>INCOME</b>		
Membership Subscriptions	1354.00	1333.00
Funds generated from Summer outings and Autumn tour	1668.75	1765.38
May Tour 2018 (Deposits)	2550.00	2650.00
Refreshments from Picton Centre	225.79	115.06
Donations	13.00	0.00
Bank interest	0.63	1.80
	<u>5812.17</u>	<u>5865.24</u>

<b>EXPENDITURE</b>		
Donation to National Trust	3000.00	1500.00
Donations for Speakers	265.00	175.00
Venue Hire	320.00	170.00
Administration	414.89	335.60
PAVs Subscription	30.00	40.00
	<u>4029.89</u>	<u>2220.60</u>
	<u>1782.28</u>	<u>3644.64</u>

**BALANCE SHEET AS AT 31 DECEMBER 2017**

		£
<b>LIABILITIES</b>		
Accumulated Fund b/f	7464.64	5670.85
Surplus/Loss for year	1782.28	3576.07
	<u>9246.92</u>	<u>9246.92</u>
<b>ASSETS</b>		
Cash at Bank - Community a/c		5670.85
Cash at Business Premium a/c		3576.07
		<u>9246.92</u>

Signed *Margret Price* (Margret Price - Hon Treasurer) Date *19/02/18* 2018  
 Signed *P L Evans* (P L Evans ACIB) Date *19/02/18* 2018

I certify that I have examined the above accounts for the year ended 31 December 2017 and found them to be correct and in accordance with the books and records for the Pembrokehire National Trust Associations