



CYMDEITHAS PENFRO YR YMDDIRIEDOLAETH GENEDLAETHOL

PEMBROKESHIRE NATIONAL TRUST ASSOCIATION

NEWSLETTER No. 47 MARCH 2020

FROM YOUR CHAIRMAN

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

Well this isn't how it was meant to be for the National Trust's 125th Anniversary. There is a domino run of messages about cancelled meetings, in the threat of the Covid-19 virus. I add to that news to say that our AGM, scheduled for Thursday April 2nd, is postponed. Provisionally it will be held in the autumn.

The May Tour to Cheshire has been cancelled. My thanks to Margret Price for her efforts in planning the trip. We hope to utilise this groundwork by going there next year, instead.

Your committee made plans for activities to take place over the coming months. We will kick into touch those scheduled for the twelve week period from the 20th March. Events beyond that date are still listed in the later pages, as it is good to have things on the horizon, to look forward to, even if uncertainties remain.

Let us look back and celebrate a well-attended and varied season of talks, through the winter months. Our flirtation with a Saturday morning presentation didn't fill many seats, but brought us some new members.

Thanks to your support of the Association and its activities, we are again able to make a substantial donation towards Pembrokeshire National Trust projects, detailed later in this Newsletter.

In November, Annie, with help from Kate Waldeis, organised an enjoyable lunch, with Chris Harding as an entertaining speaker. As these events are well received, please put a note in your diary for Thursday 12th November 2020, when Justin Albert, NT Director for Wales, will be our after lunch speaker. (Surely things will be back to normal by then!) Look out for more details and a booking form in the Autumn Newsletter.

My thanks, as ever, to the committee members; Annie Weaver as secretary, Jane Mason for PR, Steven Flather as Treasurer, Marilyn James for website (and understudy for the Newsletter) and Sheila Ashton as Membership Secretary plus refreshment roster. Pat Morgan has recently joined and has taken responsibility for summer evening walks (now walk). Jim Price has kindly put together this Newsletter. Jim and Margret were due to step back from committee, in April, but they have agreed to continue until the postponed AGM. We would welcome any PNTA members who would like to help with the running of the Association.

Given the recent Government guidelines, the National Trust has been swift to advise that "all our pay for entry component must be closed from Friday 20th March, which means our houses, visitor receptions, Food & Beverage and retail outlets. We want to keep our parks and gardens open for anybody who wants to use them. People can access these places for free." Steve

Whitehead has confirmed that the grounds and garden at Colby will be accessible, akin to their normal winter arrangements. So I wish you well for the challenges ahead. Let me know if you think the Association may be able to help lend support in times of isolation. I look forward to seeing you when our gatherings can resume.

PNTA GIFT TO PEMBROKESHIRE NATIONAL TRUST

Andrew led the discussion on the donations for this year. It was decided to give;

£500 to Colby for backpacks for visitors

£500 to the Tudor Merchant's House for a bay tree and a bench for the Tudor Garden

£1000 for a carved 125th memorial bench for Stackpole, and £500 for a bench at Stackpole Quay.

£500 will be kept in reserve in case Southwood needs help with the new footpath between Roch and Newgale.

REPORT ON WINTER PROGRAMME TALKS

October 3rd – 'Refuse and Recycling' – John King, Pembs. County Council, Waste and Recycling Department.

John briefed us on the changes that will take place with refuse and recycling when the County Council introduces a new process in November. This is aimed at meeting higher targets for recycling, laid down by the Welsh Assembly. Another objective is to pass more responsibility for the recycling to householders. This will involve householders having five containers which will enable them to be more specific about separating the types of product that will be put out for collection. Each household has received a package through the post which describes the system and it is important that everyone does their best to follow the rules. Five

containers will continue to be collected on a weekly basis, but each household will also have a roll of grey plastic bags which will take only plastic containers and plastic film. These will be collected every three weeks.

A number of members raised concerns about things like storage space. John said this can be a problem with but has usually been overcome in trail runs that have been carried out. His advice is that if, when the process starts you feel you have a problem, you should call them at County Hall. There are different rules for holiday lets which will have to follow business procedures.

The sting in the tail is that if the County does not meet its target, the Welsh Assembly will impose a fine which the County can only pay by taking away money from other valuable services. This gives us all an incentive to do the job properly.

November 7th – 'Looking after our Special Landscapes and Seascapes' – Edward Holdaway

Edward has been actively involved in protecting our countryside having worked for the Countryside Commission. He has been involved in the creation of National Parks and Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty. He focussed on National Parks in his talk and noted that we have just passed the 70th Anniversary of the Parliamentary legislation for founding and managing of National Parks.

National Parks (NPs) are not equally spread across the UK. As a percentage the land areas of the three mainland countries, England has 9%, Scotland 3% and Wales 19% of land designated as NPs. The key factors considered for the founding of a NP are the importance of beauty, the protection of our native flora and fauna, and the opportunities for outdoor recreation they provide. Unlike the USA and some European Countries, the NPs are not State owned. The land ownership can be with estates, farmers, local authorities,

utilities, tourism and, as in Pembrokeshire, the military.

A NP Authority has a management committee with 2/3 of its members appointed by the Local Authority and 1/3 by the Government. It has to prepare a management plan and a land use plan. The plans define the people numbers and skills for its operation. Like other Government bodies the NPs do not receive the money they need to fully implement their plans. In the future they will additionally face the challenge of cutting carbon emissions, not just in their current activities but also potential wind farms and water driven energy sources.

There will have to be compromises but the NP Authorities must continue to protect the key factors of their Parks and minimise the effect of any significant changes.

December 5th - 'Early Postal Services in Pembrokeshire' – Rev. Roger Antell

Roger has been interested postage stamps since a boy and is currently Chairman of the Welsh Postal History Society. The talk covers the development of postal services in Pembrokeshire from its beginning in 1600 to 1850.

Good Queen Bess instituted the first mail service in 1600 to speed up communications between London and Southern Ireland where there was an uprising. Up to then, messages were being sent from London to Ireland via Chester. The route via Milford was quicker. At that time the mail service was for Government only. King Charles 1st established Government Postal Services from London to other key locations such as Edinburgh, Dover, Holyhead and Falmouth. When King Charles 2nd came to the throne, the postal services were put out to tender and were allowed to carry private citizens' letters. All letters had to carry the 'bishop's mark' stamp, only available in London. A letter from Pembroke to London could take 10 days. Once stamped, it might have another long trip to Edinburgh say. Charges were paid by the recipient, not the sender. In the

days before postal addresses finding the recipient could provide another challenge.

One step forward in the process was the establishment of Receiving Houses, often inns or coffee shops, which collected mail and delivered it to the town Post Office. The post was carried by the Post Boy, who rode his horse carrying the postbag along his prescribed route. Mail Carriages took over the role late in the 18th century. The use of letter post increased in the eighteenth century and more towns were allowed to open post offices. In 1840 the uniform penny post was introduced and there was an explosion in the number of letters carried. Luckily railways were being introduced and largely contained the postal need.

Roger also explained one puzzle. If you are driving from Carmarthen to Pembroke Dock along the A477, there are milestones which still direct you to Hobbs Point, not to Pembroke Dock. Hobbs Point, we were told, was the quay from which the Irish Mail Boat operated.

January 2nd 2020 – 'The Forgotten War'- David James, West Wales Maritime Trust

David explained that German U-boats were very active in the Atlantic and Welsh maritime waters, up to the end of World War 1. They had orders to torpedo any enemy ship they saw.

On October 4th 1918 U-boat UB91 sank a Japanese ship, the Hirano Maru, which was a commercial liner just off the Pembrokeshire coast. From the 320 crew and passengers on board, only 29 survived. Many bodies were washed up on Pembrokeshire beaches and were buried at the local churches. Most had no documentation of their names but the few that did were recorded in the Church records.

Angle Church buried ten bodies in one grave of which only one had a name recorded, Shiro Okosie. The grave had a wooden marker which survived into the 21st century but then collapsed. David decided it would be a good gesture to

replace it with a stone one. However this would be expensive and funding was required. He approached the Japanese Embassy and was given help by Setsu Kato, a Japanese photographer working in London. The Embassy was willing to provide the funding but David checked the Church records and found Shiro Okosie's name. He gave this to Setsu Kato who published it in Japanese newspapers. One lady, the granddaughter of Shiro, came forward. She was funded to fly over for the re-commemoration.

The event was attended by the Japanese Ambassador, and the Duke of Gloucester represented the UK. The granddaughter fainted when she was told he was a member of the Royal Family. The stone is there to see in the Angle churchyard engraved in Japanese, English and Welsh.

David set another hare running. In the 1870s, the Pembroke Dockyard was building a warship for the Japanese Navy. A naval officer, 'Mr Togo', was billeted in the Dockyard to overlook the building of the ship. He enjoyed his time there and, as a thank you, arranged for a Ginko tree to be sent and planted in the Dockyard. The tree still survives and David mentioned this when he was in the Japanese Embassy. The Embassy requested a cutting to plant in their garden. It was explained that 'Mr Togo' prospered in his naval career and became Marshal Admiral Hehachero Togo who destroyed the Russian Eastern Fleet in 1905. He is the Japanese equivalent our Admiral Nelson and is still greatly revered in Japan. This turned the initial request for a cutting into a 'forest' of requests from places in Japan with associations with Admiral Togo. The National Garden of Wales has been tasked to satisfy the demand.

February 6th – 'Historical Tour Through Pembrokeshire in the footsteps of Richard Fenton' – Dr Robert Davies

Richard Fenton was born in St Davids in January 1747 into a 'lower gentry family'. He went to the Cathedral School, then to Haverfordwest Grammar School and

finally to Oxford. At an early age he obtained a job the Custom House in London. Later he entered the Middle Temple and studied for the legal profession. After being called to the bar he attended circuits in Wales for several years. While in London he married his wife, Eloise, and became friendly with writers like Oliver Goldsmith.

His uncle, Samuel Fenton, who lived in Fishguard, asked Richard to come and help him with his mackerel fishing business. Uncle Samuel died and his will left Richard a wealthy man. He decided to give up his working life and focus on his interests of poetry, history and his love of the Pembrokeshire landscape.

He rode off on a number of tours of the different areas of the County. His first tour was of the one nearest home, documenting what he saw between Fishguard and St Davids. He had an inquisitive mind that took in landscapes and seascapes, castles, churches, estates and their houses, prehistoric standing stones and graves and, what was a recent event to him, the Last Invasion.

He continued his travels over a number of years, with other 'Tours' around the County, often just turning up at 'Stately Homes' and asking for shelter for a night.

There is too much in his books to be contained in a 1 hour talk, but Robert had a catalogue of photos which showed the many places Fenton had visited.

Richard Fenton died in 1821 and is buried at Manorowen.

March 5th – 'Coal Mining at Colby' – Steve Whitehead, NT Manager and Head Gardener at Colby

Steve first explained to us that when we look at the Colby Garden we are looking at a structure that was designed for coal mining. The pathways and water management were developed to facilitate the extraction of coal from the mines in the valley and its movement to the seafront at Amroth from where it was taken to Saundersfoot to be distributed to its customers. Colby was within the confines

of the Pembrokeshire coalfield which produced high quality anthracite. But as with all mines in Pembrokeshire, there were two major difficulties. Firstly the coal seams were narrow and difficult to work, and secondly the geology of the coalfield is very fragmented and the seam you were working could suddenly disappear.

It is not clear when mining started in the area. Some seams were visible on the surface and could be worked with no tunnelling. This coal could be dug by families leaving a pit and piles of waste. Steve said there are many of these at Colby and some are still being discovered.

However by the end of the 18th century the demand for coal was growing rapidly and landowners wished to exploit this. John Colby bought 123 acres at Colby to start mining. His land was on the eastern side of the stream running down the Colby valley. The western side was owned by Lord Milford who had created an underground water management system which held a head of water that was channelled to the lifting equipment at the various mineshafts. Lord Milford allowed John Colby to link into this. The mineshafts had odd names such as Bedlam, Hall, Engine and Corner. There was also a sawing pit where the pit props were cut. The work in the pits was hard. Shifts were as long as 12 hours. Men did most of the coal cutting but women and children pulled many of the drams(carts) that took the coal from the coal face to the bottom of the mine shaft. Here it was taken to the surface using a windlass, also often operated by women. Children were also used for dram pulling when the tunnels could be three feet or less in height.

There was a hard price to pay for this. The norm for underground workers deaths was 40 to 45. Much of this was caused by lung disease but it was not understood then that the disease was caused by the coal dust. Children also developed deformities. Stunted growth was common and it was commented that anyone could distinguish a

collier's child from the children of other working people.

Mining at Colby died down around the end of the 19th century. The lodge was bought by Samuel Kay in 1873 and restoration of the valley and tree planting began.

SUMMER PROGRAMME 2020.

PNTA Autumn Lunch 2020

The Lunch date is on Thursday, November 12th and Justin Albert, NT Director for Wales, will be our guest speaker. More details will appear in the October Newsletter.

SUMMER EXCURSIONS

Andrew Weaver has arranged the following:

Thursday 25th June - Evening Seabird Cruise near Skomer. 19:00 to 21:00.

We have chartered the Dale Princess, to take us from Martin's Haven to the waters around Skomer. We will have a guide on board to help identify and describe the bird life, as puffins, razorbills, guillemots and shearwaters return to the island after catching fish out at sea, during the day.

Make your own way to the National Trust Car Park at Martin's Haven.

There is a maximum of 40 places for this trip.

Cost - £25.

Tuesday 7th July - All day Coach trip to Rhossili (National Trust) and Oystermouth Castle.

Following Alan Kearsley-Evans' presentation at last year's PNTA AGM, this is a chance to see the changes made by the National Trust to make the traditional small fields of Vile Farm, more wildlife friendly. The visit is timed to see the floral hay meadows at their peak, and to see how the recently planted lavender beds are progressing. Ranger Mark Hipkin will take us on a guided walk.

Trainers or comfortable walking shoes are advised for the tracks. The first part of the

walk will be fairly easy going, with an option to return after about an hour. For those who would like to venture further, Mark can extend his tour.

For lunch, you could bring your own picnic, or avail yourself of catering establishments (non NT) near the car park and visitors centre.

Early in the afternoon, we will progress to Oystermouth Castle, near the Mumbles, for a guided tour.

Cost- £28, which include the entrance to Oystermouth Castle and guided tours.

Despite the Covid-19 uncertainties, I would ask that you to still book for these activities, if you would like to go. Should the Association need to cancel an excursion, provided we give a little bit of notice, we do not expect to incur costs, so your money can then to be returned to you. If we don't have much take up, then the events will be cancelled for lack of numbers.

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.

Monday July 13th – ‘A visit to the Stackpole Estate with the Head Ranger, Haydn Garlick’

Haydn will lead us from Lodge Park Wood to the Belvedere, where the new seat sponsored by the PNTA is being resited. We will return by walking through Castle Dock Wood.

Meet at the Lodge Park Wood Car Park at 6.45pm

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 reports:

Hello again. The summer of 2019 turned out to be another pretty good one weather-wise and this was reflected in another record-breaking year for visitors to our car parks. This was good news for Charlie and Claire at Runwayskiln Café, and Ben and Caroline at Porth Clais kiosk. Both these new businesses have got off to a wonderful start, so if you haven't visited yet, make a note in your diaries, you won't be disappointed!

This winter has been another story completely! However, despite the weather I am really pleased to report that the improvements to Marloes Sands car park are almost complete (thank you for your patience if you have made a visit over the last few months when parking has been very restricted)! The car park surface will be completed by Easter. However, as the final finish is grass (growing in a special honeycomb construction for strength), we want to avoid parking on it until the grass has established. We plan to open the car park on Saturday 21 March. The second phase of the car park project at Marloes will be to replace the old (now demolished) visitor welcome hut with a new and slightly larger building that will provide a little more shelter and some inside space to talk to National Trust staff. We hope that this will be completed ready for the start of the summer holidays in late July. Funding for this project is supported by a generous grant towards the project through the Welsh Government's Tourism Amenity Investment Support scheme

My report to you in September was a little shorter than usual because we were in a very busy period, creating meadows, as part of the "Magnificent Meadows" project. The focus of Magnificent Meadows in 2019 was Southwood Farm where we began the process of restoration across six fields surrounding the farmhouse at Southwood. This work was followed up

by winter grazing with sheep. Now we wait, holding our breath to see the results! If you would like to find out more and see the results for yourself, please come along to the Southwood Farm Summer Fete on 5th August 10:30 – 15:30. Where there will be a focus on meadows with guided walks, talks and truck rides with the rangers. It promises to be a great day out for the family with heaps of activities, from welly wanging and den building to bug hunting and wild art.

Southwood Estate is going to focus heavily with several significant pieces of work starting this year. In February last year, I wrote about some work looking at the options for buildings at Southwood farm. That work was completed in 2019 and we now have an exciting master-plan for the development of the buildings. Southwood Farm will be transformed into the main hub for all of National Trust's operation in North Pembrokeshire with our offices based in the farm house. There will be Holiday accommodation, a café, toilets; and an expanded set of Hunting Lodge (part of the self-led trails through our new meadows). Work has already started on converting Southwood (main house) into holiday accommodation. It seems fitting that the Hunting Lodge which was built for the Stancombe family to entertain their family and guests when they came down to Pembrokeshire from London will once more be available for visitors to stay in and enjoy Southwood Estate and the wonderful countryside that surrounds it. We hope to be ready to welcome our first guests in August 2020.

It is not just the buildings that are getting a fresh start in 2020, we also have some exciting projects starting on the surrounding estate. Working with our tenants, the National Trust has been managing the 850 acres at Southwood Estate to protect the landscape, archaeology and the wildlife that thrives there. Over that period many species have continued to decline in the wider countryside; and I am sure all of us have a heightened awareness of the impact of

climate change in 2020. In response to these continued threats, our team will be working with experts from across the Trust to see what more we can do to combat climate change at Southwood. We have already started a project to expand the populations of declining farmland birds like the yellowhammer by planting and protecting the wonderful network of hedges across the estate. In 2020, we will be looking for more opportunities to plant trees and expand our woodland cover as part of the National Trust's pledge to have established 18,000 of new woodland (20 million trees) by 2030.

Climate change is the single biggest threat to the precious landscapes and historic houses we care for and we are proud to be working for a charity that, in its 125th year has made such a strong commitment to playing its part in tackling climate change. With your support, we can continue to restore and protect the countryside from the biggest challenge it has ever faced. These are the environmental pledges made by the National Trust in its 125th year:

- By 2025 we'll have created 25,000 hectares of new wildlife habitats.
- In ten years, we will establish 18,000 hectares of new woodland made up of more than 20 million trees
- We will become carbon net zero by 2030
- By 2021 50 per cent of our energy needs will be met by renewable sources
- We will create green corridors for people and nature near towns and cities
- We're embarking on a year-long campaign to connect people with nature to celebrate our 125th anniversary year. There will be dancing outdoors, rooftops at dawn and activities to mark Britain's blossom season

As spring approaches, I hope we will begin to see an improvement in the weather. Southwood Farm is an ideal place for a spring walk. During April and May there will be a “nature spotters’ leaflet” in the Shearing Shed to help you identify some of the wonderful wildlife on the farm. It is a lovely time of year to take the way-marked trail down the green lane to the beach and look out for early spring flowers such as, primrose and pink campion. By the end of April, the woods will be awash with bluebells and alive with birdsong (I can’t wait)!

If you would like to come and meet the team and take part in a bit of Easter fun, we are running our usual action-packed Easter egg hunt at Southwood Farm. Bunny’s been exploring this special place and leaving clues to a scrummy Cadbury treat for you. Come along and bring your friends and family. We will be open with trails, activities food and house tours between 10:30 and 15:30 on Good Friday only (10 April). I look forward to seeing you there!

If you want to get more involved, our Thursday Volunteer group (volunteers who meet once a week on Thursdays to help us with countryside tasks) continues to grow. But we always need more (your National Trust needs you)! If you fancy an early morning shift meeting and greeting visitors at Martin’s Haven, chatting to customers in St David’s shop; or “bashing scrub” on St David’s commons we would love to hear from you.

Finally, thank you for your continued support for our work. Your generosity in 2019 helped to buy some seeds for the Magnificent Meadows project; and in 2020 you have indicated your support for some gates and signage on a new footpath connecting the village of Roch through Southwood Estate to Newgale beach.
Diolch yn fawr
Mark Underhill

Stackpole

Haydn Garlick reports:

It feels like spring is just around the corner, with snowdrops and daffodils in full flower and the wild garlic about to burst into life. It has seemed like a long, wet and windy winter, but contrary to popular belief that the ranger team goes into hibernation, we have had a very busy winter of work.

With the woodlands dormant, we are busy carrying out our woodland management tasks. This winter we have thinned out the conifers from Lady Caroline’s Grove, giving a more open feel and allowing more space and light for the broadleaf and specimen trees to mature. As well as cutting them down, it’s nice to plant new ones. We had a great community event in February where local people helped plant 1,250 broadleaf saplings such as oak, sweet chestnut and hazel.



They were planted in an area of Castle Dock Wood which had been cleared of fallen conifers after the dramatic storms of 2014. The event was part of the Trust’s 125th anniversary.

When I was a child, I saw the destruction caused by Dutch elm disease. Now, my children are seeing the march of Ash dieback across the countryside. The rangers have been managing the impact of the disease by actively removing infected trees from public areas for safety reasons,

whilst leaving the more isolated ones to their own devices.

We often rely on volunteers to help us with various tasks. Over the last few months, they have been busy laying edging boards and carrying out path improvements along the Western Arm of the lakes. We have also been reinstating some of the views from the Central Arm and beyond to Broadhaven. Stackpole Quay has also had a similar makeover, with blackthorn scrub being removed and burnt, creating an open vista towards the quay and out to sea.



Now to something new. The National Trust in Wales has joined the charity Plantlife in a partnership project called 'Magnificent Meadows'. Sadly around 97% of the UK's meadows have been lost since the 1930s. At Stackpole, Gupton Farm has been fortunate to receive funding from the project to restore some of its fields to flower-rich grassland, which will also benefit a wide range of wildlife, from butterflies, bees and other important pollinators. After some scarifying, we will reseed with plants such as yellow rattle collected from the Warren. A crop of grass will then be removed later in the year, to help reduce the soil nutrient status, which is what most wildflowers prefer. Chris James' cattle from Stackpole Home Farm will then graze these fields for the remainder of the year.

Tudor Merchant's House

Melanie Knapp reports:

At the end of October, we said goodbye to Katy Harries and Kevin Geary and immediately welcomed Kevin back as a volunteer. We celebrated a successful year with our end of season coffee morning in early November which was very well attended. We especially enjoyed homemade scones and crab apple jelly made from our very own fruit from the garden by Mair. For the rest of November, we concentrated on compliance and clearing out the office – a big thank you to Hede, Kevin and Ed for all their help!

At the start of February, we were all back in the house again for our own start of season meeting where we discussed our plans for the coming year. Thankfully our team of volunteers have all agreed to return and help this year and Mair has already started work in the garden where we have some lovely pots of Tenby daffodils in flower. At the start of February we commenced our deep clean and made a few changes for our returning visitors.



Following the two weeks of Half Term in February we have finished up with a total of 27,800 visitors to the house during the year. This is an increase on last year and is a very pleasing result for all the staff and volunteers. During the second week, we were very lucky to have some conservation in action in the house done by Peter Martindale. The purpose of his visit was to uncover some more of our wall paintings in the reception area. He was

very pleased with the outcome after his work was complete and enjoyed engaging with the visitors, although he did notice the cold as his last visit to us was in May!

Colby Woodland Garden

Steve Whitehead reports:

Colby is up and running for the season of “The Year of the Tree”. The new sculptures are underway with the hedgehog almost complete, and the nuthatch and the squirrel safely up their respective trees.

There’s a badger and a bat still to follow as part of the interactive sculpture programme. Krin drums have been created from giant Beech logs to add a sensory element to the tree experiences and they’re looking really good down in the meadow by the bamboo.

The early season sensory trail has been out already, and a new tree-trail is under development by staff and volunteers.

New log benches have been installed at two sites in the garden, these were produced from the giant Fir tree at the top of the car-park that had to be felled for safety reasons. The sky-glades are still being added to, carvings on the larch-logs will encourage visitors to lean back, look up and listen to the woodland.

The trail packs funded by the PNTA will soon be in service, with age-group specific activities focussed on trees and our woodland environments habitats.

We still have two large wind-blown trees at the bottom of the meadow that have yet to be tackled, we’re hoping to nibble these back gently and hope to turn them into play features for children to climb on.

A willow maze was planted at the bottom of the meadow last Autumn and we’re looking forward to thickening that up this year.

The new edible forest-garden has also been expanded in the area between the car-parks, so we’re looking forward to that growing away this year too.

Tree planting up on the estate continues, the 1st Kilgetty Cub-Scouts will be helping us to plant more woodland at the end of March on the fields up at Llanteg that

came back in hand this year. We’re also planning to do more planting on the marginal farmland at Sunnybank farm above Wisemans Bridge.

Mount and Barn fields to the north of the main road will also be coming back in hand this year, and an evaluation of their potential will be taking place in the late spring to see what we can accomplish for nature on that land.

Little Craig y Borion farmhouse has been upgraded so it can accommodate holiday cottage guests as well as continuing to provide a base for working holidays this year.

The cap will come off the old mineshaft by Pamela Chance’s memorial on March 11th and we’re hoping to make the shaft visible to visitors with a low stone wall and a steel safety grate. That should also leave us with another old mine-machinery wheel to restore at some point in 2020.

In the walled garden some of the over-grown conifers have been removed and we’re busily filling in the space with fresh plantings.

The Gazebo wall paintings have had a proper condition survey and we’re hoping to lift the roof this year to remove the Honey-bee colony that moved in last summer. We’re also hoping to establish a new colony down in the meadow in the high-welfare hive funded by the PNTA as soon as the weather improves.

Parkrun continues, and they holding the occasional night-run for us to raise funds for us to help maintain the paths and tracks they use here.

All in all, it’s looking like a very busy year!

SPRING/SUMMER EVENTS – National Trust Pembrokeshire

**All NT Events have been cancelled
because of the Corona Covid Virus.**

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 .

If you have provided e mail addresses, but haven't seen meetings reminders in your inbox lately, it may be worth checking whether they are being classified as "junk" mail, by your system. The address that they are sent from andrew.pnta@gmail.com can also be used for enquiries on PNTA activities.

MEMBERSHIP SUBSCRIPTIONS

Your membership subscriptions were due for renewal on Jan 1st 2020. 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

MEMBERSHIP SECRETARY

Sheila Ashton
Tel 01437 731525

TREASURER* Stephen Flather
Tel

SECRETARY* Annie Weaver
Tel: 01646 831323

NEWSLETTER Marilyn James
Tel 01437 891205

TALKS

TRIPS

WALKS

Pat Morgan
Tel 07866 242924

P.R. Jane Mason
Tel. 01437 762387

MailChimp Andrew Weaver
Tel. 01646 831323

Pembrokeshire National Trust Association

2020 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:

Stephen Flather, PNTA Treasurer, 21 Pembroke Road, Merlins Bridge, Haverfordwest, SA61 1JW

For further information regarding the Trips, please telephone Andrew Weaver on 01646 831323

First names _____ Surname _____

Address _____

Post Code _____ Telephone Number _____

E-mail _____

Thursday June 25th – Skomer Evening Cruise from Martins Haven

Number of Places _____ @ £25 Amount enclosed _____

Tuesday July 7th – Bus Tour to Rhossili and Oystermouth Castle

Number of Places _____ @£28 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 _____